

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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State Overview

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

IDAHO COMPLETES 10TH YEAR OF EXPANSION

As the new century begins, Idaho's economy and employment maintained upward trends in 2000. Employment gains continued at a brisk pace during the first half of the year, with growth slowing in the second half of the year. The 2000 unemployment rate is forecast to be 4.5 percent, compared to the 1999 rate of 5.2 percent.

The Department's preliminary estimates indicate:

Average annual total employment for 2000 topped 640,000 for the first time in the state's history. Total employment increased by 3.0 percent from 1999. The unemployment rate will average 4.5 percent for the year.

The average number of **nonfarm jobs** increased by 18,100 from 1999. Only a few industries in State Table 1 on page 4 had a decline in the number of jobs.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The year of 2000 continued the 1990s trend of increased growth in employment and a lower unemployment rate. In other words, it was another good year.

These labor market headlines are generally reinforced by the regional analyses contained in this issue, but the reader will notice differences in the regional economies and developments. Statewide data can mask these regional developments and, although an industry can show only a small statewide change, regional industrial movements are often more dramatic.

LABOR FORCE

The state's labor force numbers (FYI Table 2) indicate steady growth in the *Civilian Labor Force* and Total Employment. The number of unemployed individuals dropped dramatically in 2000, a total of 4,100 below last year's averages.

The preliminary 2000 Idaho average annual unemployment rate is 4.5 percent. FYI Table 1 provides labor force estimates for each labor market area, county, and selected cities. There was a very mixed picture around the state. In some cases, a high unemployment rate was expected in counties dominated by natural resource industries. This is especially true in many of Idaho's lower populated counties.

Three counties had double-digit unemployment rates in 2000—Clearwater at 12.5 percent, Adams at 12.4 percent, and Benewah at 11.2 percent. Shoshone and Idaho counties had unemployment rates exceeding 9.0 percent. Eight of the ten north Idaho counties had unemployment rates above 6.5 percent. Nez Perce and Latah counties were the exceptions with unemployment rates of 3.8 percent and 3.1 percent respectively. Urbanized Kootenai County in the Panhandle is projected to have a 6.8 percent unemployment rate.

The more populated counties in southern Idaho fared much better—Bannock at 4.6 percent, Canyon at 4.2 percent, Twin Falls at 4.0 percent, and Bonneville at 3.0 percent. Ada County continued to have a tight labor market with a preliminary annual average unemployment rate of 2.7 percent for 2000. This rate is far below any economist's definition of full employment—4.0 to 5.0 percent. For these urban centers, the 2000 statistics are very economically healthy unemployment rates.

This issue of *Idaho Employment* is a 2000 year-in-review. It includes projected data and analysis for the State and the six labor market areas. Our January issue will resume our normal *Idaho Employment* schedule.

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Idaho's 2000 average *Agriculture* employment is estimated to be 34,453, only 0.1 percent less than the 1999 average. *Agriculture* employment was 5.3 percent of the state's average total employment in 2000. However, that share is likely to decline in the future as farm employment has hovered in the mid-30,000s for several years while total employment has continually increased. Also, as economic difficulties continue to plague the agriculture sector, the future is clouded. This year's weather and low commodity prices continued to have an adverse impact on the agriculture economy. Many fields had to be replanted in the spring because of heavy rain. Fields of sugarbeets were plowed under early in the year because of a surplus and then, in the fall, inclement weather prohibited harvest of thousands of acres, especially in Southcentral Idaho. Poor farm prices generally affect other businesses in the immediate area—from agricultural services and product suppliers to retail stores and financial institutions. In the longer term, poor prices and rising costs might force farm consolidation or closure of farming operations. The possible reduction in the number of farms will reduce the demand for year-round as well as seasonal labor.

Agriculture is forecast to experience a dramatic drop in farm income during 2000. In the October 2000 issue of **Idaho Economic Forecast**, the state's Division of Financial Management reported a 16.6 percent decrease in Farm Proprietor's Income for 2000. This follows an increase of 51.9 percent in 1999 and 70.8 percent in 1998.

NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Idaho's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* averaged 557,311 in 2000. As State Table 1 on page 4 shows, this number is 3.4 percent greater than 1999. The *Goods-Producing Industries* added about 2,400 jobs with the remaining 15,700 new jobs found in the *Service-Producing Industries*.

All the published industries with employment in excess of 25,000 experienced an increase in the number of jobs in 2000. There was particular strength in *Retail Trade, Business Services, Construction, and Local Government*. Conversely, *Lumber & Wood Products* experienced the largest loss of jobs during the year.

GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

The *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for 20.8 percent of the nonfarm jobs in 2000, down slightly from 21.1 percent in 1999. The *Manufacturing* industries, overall, fared well in 2000, although the natural resource-based industries lost jobs. *Mining* continued to lose jobs as employment is at its lowest level. Some significant events in the *Mining* sector include: layoffs at the Sunshine mine in Shoshone County due to low silver prices; closure of Beartrack Mine in Lemhi County; and the phasing out of the Thompson Creek Mine in Custer County.

Growth in *Construction*, especially *Special Trade Contractors*, continued at a strong, but slower, pace with over 2,300 new jobs in 2000. The increase in interest rates and decrease in population growth are thought to be the reasons for slower housing starts. When residential construction slows, so does the number of *Special Trade Contractors* jobs because a lot of specialty work is contracted out. The growth rate in both *Residential Construction* and *Special Trade Contractors* is down from 1999 but only 0.03 percent. *Heavy Construction* growth remained unchanged from 1999.

Within *Manufacturing*, there were bright and dark spots. The two electronic manufacturing sectors, which have been the major expansion industries over the past 5 years, reported a slowdown in job growth during 2000. The number of new jobs was slightly over 1,000 compared to a loss of 100 between 1998 and 1999 but below the 1,600 new jobs created between 1997 and 1998. The majority of the growth (80 percent) was in the *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, exc. Computers*. This particular sector includes companies such as Micron Technology, Zilog, and Jabil.

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Every major sector of Idaho's *Lumber & Wood Products* industry lost jobs in 2000, caused by several factors. Most of the 1999-2000 sawmill employment reductions were due to low lumber prices and excess inventory. Some logging operations have been adversely affected by the lack of land available for timber harvest and the large number of forest fires this year. Timber supply dynamics also contributed to job loss. Idaho's lumber industry traditionally has relied on timber from the state's national forests and other public lands. The amount of timber available for harvest on these lands continues to decrease and the future prospects of available timber are bleak. This, along with increased imports, the slowdown in national housing starts, lumber being replaced by synthetic materials, and depressed prices resulted in a loss of jobs at many of the state's sawmills. Most sawmills in Northern Idaho experienced temporary layoffs during the 3rd quarter. However, several sawmills closed. The impact of specific closures and layoffs are discussed at length in the Panhandle and Seaport sections. It is estimated that statewide over 1,000 jobs were lost this year.

The *Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits & Vegetables & Food Specialties* component of *Food Processing* lost over 200 jobs in 2000 due to belt tightening by many processing facilities. Unlike 1998 and 1999, when companies were bought out resulting in the loss of jobs, processing plants found it necessary to reduce employment levels in an effort to be more efficient and cost effective. Job levels have gradually declined, as processing systems have become more automated and efficient, reducing the demand for a large number of seasonal employees and less overtime. Transportation costs and competition from other sources of products, such as frozen French fries, likely will mean continued declines in food processing in the future.

SERVICES-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

The *Services-Producing Industries* provided 87 percent of the new nonfarm jobs created in 2000. Although all industries in this sector experienced employment growth, half of the new jobs were created in the *Services* industries, particularly *Business Services* and *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management & Related Services*. The emergence of temporary staffing businesses and call centers in recent years continued in 2000 and many of these firms are classified in these industries. The new private prison located south of Boise is in the management services classification. Some call centers are classified in the *Communications* industry and they, along with the continued growth of the cellular phone business, added nearly 500 jobs.

The other large, private employment industry group in *Services-Producing Industries* is *Trade with Retail Trade* dominating the group. Overall, *Retail Trade* added 3,400 jobs for a 3.3 percent growth rate, which is about the same as the state's overall job growth rate. Numerous "big box" stores opened their doors during the year, new restaurants were established, and many existing

stores remodeled or expanded their facilities. Growth in these industries generally parallels population growth but a good deal of the business activity in these industries is tourism-related. For example, employment in *Eating and Drinking Places* increased by an estimated 1,037 jobs.

Services contains two industries related to tourism: *Hotels & Other Lodging Places* and *Amusement and Recreation Services*. Although the severe wildfires of the summer hurt certain aspects of the tourism industry—white water river guide companies in particular—employment in *Amusement and Recreation Services* increased slightly from 1999.

Health Services jobs increased 3.9 percent over the year by adding an estimated 1,335 jobs. Several new hospitals staffed up and others expanded their facilities. The recent trend of large hospitals taking management control of smaller, rural hospitals continued during the year.

The 6.6 percent growth rate in *Federal Government* is primarily due to hiring for the 2000 Census and fire-fighting support. These temporary jobs raised the 2000 annual average. The trend of less *Federal Government* growth is expected to resume in the near future. The state's public colleges and universities added 556 jobs but *State Government Administration* lost 439 jobs. Most of the new government jobs are at the local level and nearly evenly divided between *Local Government Education* and *Local Government Administration*.

Except for employment declines in the natural resource industries and concern over low agricultural commodity prices, 2000 was a very good year for Idaho's workforce. The economy is expected to remain strong in 2001, although the slower industry growth rates in 2000 are likely to persist. The Department will publish its 2001-2002 forecast in the next newsletter.

FYI

The FYI section has the annual county, labor market area, and city labor force data in FYI Table 1. The monthly state tables with October 2000 data are in FYI Tables 2-4. The October labor force and nonfarm data for the six labor market areas is located in FYI Table 5. The January 2001 issue will return to the normal format.

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State Table 1: Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment –State of Idaho

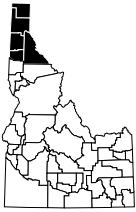
BY PLACE OF WORK	Preliminary Annual Average 2000	Annual Average 1999	Percent Change from 1999
Civilian Labor Force	669,976	655,272	2.2
Unemployment	29,841	33,913	-12.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	5.2	
Employment	640,134	621,359	3.0
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	557,311	539,169	3.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	115,973	113,581	2.1
Mining	2,464	2,579	-4.5
Metal Mining	1,293	1,425	-9.3
Construction	37,194	34,881	6.6
Manufacturing	76,315	76,122	0.3
Durable Goods	47,271	47,137	0.3
Lumber & Wood Products	12,374	13,400	-7.7
Logging	2,149	2,423	-11.3
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,562	4,753	-4.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,352	1,689	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	4,310	4,535	-5.0
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,492	1,504	-0.8
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	3,072	3,026	1.5
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	10,393	10,188	2.0
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	13,783	12,962	6.3
Transportation Equipment	2,340	2,461	-4.9
Other Durable Goods	3,817	3,597	6.1
Nondurable Goods	29,036	28,984	0.2
Food Processing	17,096	17,287	-1.1
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,714	9,956	-2.4
Paper Products	2,276	2,255	0.9
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,378	5,139	4.7
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,253	2,300	-2.0
Other Nondurable Goods	2,033	2,003	1.5
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	441,339	425,588	3.7
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	27,669	26,896	2.9
Transportation	17,320	17,036	1.7
Railroad	1,480	1,465	1.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	10,068	9,959	1.1
Communications	6,372	5,900	8.0
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	3,977	3,960	0.4
Trade	140,366	136,266	3.0
Wholesale Trade	32,855	32,193	2.1
Durable Goods	15,062	14,573	3.4
Nondurable Goods	17,793	17,620	1.0
Retail Trade	107,494	104,074	3.3
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,683	6,435	3.8
General Merchandise Stores	12,089	11,337	6.6
Food Stores	19,950	19,154	4.2
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,176	11,985	1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	37,264	36,227	2.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	23,505	23,558	-0.2
Banking	7,428	7,415	0.2
Services	143,699	135,782	5.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	8,586	8,409	2.1
Personal Services	4,295	4,185	2.6
Business Services	28,259	24,891	13.5
Amusement and Recreation Services	7,044	6,897	2.1
Health Services	35,540	34,205	3.9
Hospitals	11,582	11,191	3.5
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	17,662	16,454	7.3
Government	106,100	103,085	2.9
Federal Government	13,688	12,836	6.6
State & Local Government	92,412	90,249	2.4
State Government	27,754	27,637	0.4
Education	13,245	12,689	4.4
Administration	14,509	14,948	-2.9
Local Government	64,658	62,612	3.3
Education	37,678	36,675	2.7
Administration	26,980	25,937	4.0

1-Preliminary Estimate

2-Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

Writing a review of a year not completely over is a daunting task. No statistics are available yet for the fourth quarter, and statistics for the most important data—employment by industry—are not even available for the third quarter yet. For the region as a whole, estimates of employment by industry, based on a sample of employers, exist for July through November, and only the month of December had to be extrapolated. For the counties, this review contains an educated guess about the net result of economic developments in 2000.

The Panhandle economy began 2000 at high speed. Tourism was up. The *Lumber & Wood Products* industry was producing near peak levels. Manufacturing operations of all types were adding jobs, while call centers, software developers, and Internet companies were adding a few hundred jobs. In 1999, construction shattered previous records set in the boom of the early 1990s.

By the summer of 2000, increases in interest rates began to take a toll on the *Lumber & Wood Products* industry. Increased imports of lumber also depressed lumber prices. In July 1999, the composite price for 1,000-board feet of framing lumber peaked at \$490. By May, the price fell to \$326, and by July it fell to what was then its lowest level in five years, \$295. Many lumber mills shut down for two or more weeks, and some cut jobs permanently. The Orbar wood products plant in Post Falls permanently closed, putting 50 people out of work. Reduced mill production depressed logging activity. In August, when the most mill workers and loggers were laid off, employment in *Lumber & Wood Products* fell to its lowest level in at least 30 years.

In September, the Panhandle's lumber industry began stabilizing. All the

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Projected 2000	1999	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	89,695	89,108	0.7
Unemployed	6,787	7,908	-14.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.6%	8.9%	
Total Employment	82,908	81,201	2.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	66,503	64,798	2.6
Goods-Producing Industries	14,486	14,529	-0.3
Mining	994	1,017	-2.3
Construction	4,748	4,732	0.3
Manufacturing	8,744	8,779	-0.4
Lumber & Wood Products	4,217	4,403	-4.2
All Other Manufacturing	4,527	4,376	3.5
Service-Producing Industries	52,017	50,269	3.5
Transportation	1,472	1,450	1.5
Communication & Utilities	1,047	1,009	3.8
Wholesale Trade	2,296	2,272	1.1
Retail Trade	15,207	15,087	0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,499	2,482	0.7
Services	16,507	15,416	7.1
Government Administration	7,812	7,602	2.8
Government Education	5,177	4,953	4.5
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month			

mills but one were back in production by October. The Crown Pacific mill in Coeur d'Alene is not expected to call its 150 employees back until next spring.

In late 2000, higher interest rates and increased imports also began taking a toll on the U.S. manufacturing industry, and some of the jobs added at Panhandle area manufacturing operations early in the year were eliminated by the end of the year.

Reduction in the area's most important industry, *Lumber & Wood Products*—combined with decreased *Mining* and *Construction* employment—slowed the *Transportation; Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate; and Wholesale Trade* industries.

Fortunately, many favorable events offset the decline in those industries. Good winter and summer tourist seasons, continued growth at call centers, growth of the staffing industry, and expansion of the medical industry helped *Services* to grow an estimated 7.1 percent.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS IN 2000

Benewah County

Despite this summer's layoffs in its largest industry, *Lumber & Wood Products*, Benewah County's employment rose slightly in 2000. Its unemployment rate fell from 12.4 percent in 1999 to an estimated 11.2 percent in 2000. Its labor force remained stable at 4,600 people, and its population edged up slightly to 9,100.

As it did in the rest of the Panhandle, *Lumber & Wood Products* took a wild ride this year in Benewah County. The county's second largest mill, the Regulus Stud Mill in St. Maries, shut down for several weeks in late summer. Low prices also forced Potlatch to reduce employment at its St. Maries complex. In the fall, employment began to recover, as Regulus recalled its workers and many loggers returned to the woods. After Potlatch permanently closed its only other plywood mill—the Jaype mill in Clearwater County—Potlatch increased production and employment at the St. Maries complex's plywood plant. Potlatch expects to add up to 20 more workers in the next few months.

In August 1999, Pacific Northwest Fiberboard (PNF) opened at the site of the Rayonier mill that burned down in 1998. A joint venture of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Seed Inc. in nearby Tekoa, Washington, and Prairie Forest Products Inc. in Hutchinson, Kansas, PNF makes particleboard out of straw. It employs 35 people. Although the boards are not made of wood, their manufacture is classified as *Wood Products*. Falling prices for construction materials also affected PNF, whose inventory failed to sell. So, PNF was shut down from August through November. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe plans to develop an industrial park around PNF.

Other *Goods-Producing Industries* also experienced drops in employment and income in 2000. Low agricultural prices continued to hold down incomes of the county's farmers, who mostly grow wheat, peas, lentils, and grass seed. Higher interest rates and slower population growth reduced construction activity in St. Maries in 2000. The value of construction permits granted by the City of St. Maries, according to First Security Bank's *Idaho Construction Report*, was \$361,000 in the first nine months of 2000, 74.4 percent below the \$2,190,000 in the first nine months of 1999. The county's only mining operation, Emerald Creek Garnet near Fernwood, kept its employment steady around 50. Emerald Creek excavates industrial garnets used for sandblasting, water filtration, emery boards, and non-skid surfaces. The county only has four manufacturing operations not classified as *Lumber & Wood Products*. The largest of these operations, Peet's Shoe Dryer in St. Maries, employs 27 people. This fall, Peet's introduced a new product that may result in expansion.

Tourism remains small in Benewah County. Hotel-motel receipts, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Travel & Convention Tax Report, decreased 19.1

percent from \$236,000 in the first ten months of 1999 to \$191,000 in the first ten months of 2000. However, Benewah County benefits from the largest source of new tourism jobs in Kootenai County, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's casino just over the county border in Worley.

After its expansion in late 1998, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Casino employed more than 400 people. In December 2000, the tribe opened a 94-room motel next to the casino, adding more than 30 jobs. Next spring, work will begin on an 18-hole golf course slated to open in 2002.

Medical services added approximately 30 jobs between 1999 and 2000. All three of the county's largest medical service providers—the community hospital in St. Maries, the Valley Vista care center in St. Maries, and the Benewah Medical Center in Plummer—added jobs. In December, a new health clinic opened in St. Maries. Housed by Panhandle Health District and staffed by volunteers, the clinic provides a range of medical, dental, and counseling services for low-income individuals. Valley Vista recently began a \$1.1 million expansion of its care center.

Moderate income growth allowed retail sales and the *Services* industry to grow at a fair pace in 2000. Taxable sales in Benewah County, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Sales Tax Report, grew 3.4 percent from \$31.2 million in the first three quarters of 1999 to \$32.2 million in the first three quarters of 2000. Mountain States Glass, a telemarketing center in St. Maries, added a dozen jobs between 1999 and 2000. Most of the county's retail and *Services* growth occurred on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe reservation.

Bonner County

Despite the rash of lumber mill shutdowns in the summer of 2000, Bonner County's unemployment rate fell from 9.6 percent in 1999 to an estimated 8.3 percent in 2000. Growth in tourism, manufacturing, and service sectors provided many new jobs for the county's labor force of 17,600. Approximately 36,000 people reside in Bonner County.

The year 2000 began with Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint hosting a record number of skiers, shattering the previous record set six years before. The even more critical summer tourist season also went well. Hotel-motel receipts, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Travel & Convention Tax Report, increased 6.2 percent from \$8.7 million in the first ten months of 1999 to \$9.3 million in the first ten months of 2000.

Amusement and recreation operations continue to add new attractions. Harbor Resorts, which purchased Schweitzer Mountain Resort in December 1998, is expanding the Sandpoint resort's ski area and improving the village around the lodge. In late November, Schweitzer unveiled three new runs and a new high-speed chairlift that carries six passengers. Hidden Lakes Golf Resort, eight miles east of Sandpoint, is building a

new clubhouse, improving the course, and developing residential lots around the course.

Following large layoffs in early 1999, Coldwater Creek, the Sandpoint-based mail-order company, added jobs in 2000. Coldwater Creek recently reported that its payroll in the Sandpoint area rose from \$18 million in 1999 to \$21 million in 2000. Nearly 600 people work for Coldwater Creek in the Sandpoint area.

Temporary mill shutdowns in the summer decreased average *Manufacturing* employment for 2000 about 100 jobs below its 1999 level. Also contributing to the decrease was the closure of the 14-year-old Advanced Input Device circuit board plant at the Priest River Industrial Park. The plant, which closed in June, employed 16 people.

Higher interest rates and a slowdown in economic growth caused construction activity to drop in 2000. The value of construction permits granted by the cities of Sandpoint and Priest River, according to First Security Bank's *Idaho Construction Report*, was \$7.0 million in the first nine months of 2000, 49.7 percent below the \$13.8 million in the first nine months of 1999.

The retail sector grew slowly in 2000. Employment at retail stores stayed about the same. Taxable sales in Bonner County, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Sales Tax Report, grew 2.5 percent from \$184.4 million in the first three quarters of 1999 to \$188.9 million in the first three quarters of 2000. Wal-Mart is turning its Sandpoint store into a Supercenter, adding 60,000-square feet to the current 100,000-square feet. The expansion will include a grocery store, hair salon, vision center, and bank.

Bonner County leaders renewed their commitment to economic development, forming the Bonner Economic Development Corporation to recruit new businesses to the county and assist existing businesses to grow. The county's economic development potential was enhanced by this fall's opening of North Idaho College's center in Sandpoint, allowing county residents to more easily develop their skills and local employers to train their work forces.

Boundary County

Boundary County experienced fairly strong growth in 2000, reducing its unemployment rate from 9.2 percent in 1999 to an estimated 7.8 percent in 2000. The county's labor force increased only marginally from 4,523 in 1999 to an estimated 4,543 in 2000, while the number of employed persons rose 2.0 percent from 4,108 to 4,189. In 2000, Boundary County's population approached and may have passed the 10,000 mark.

The county's largest employer, CEDU Family of Services, employs 350 people near Bonners Ferry at Rocky Mountain Academy, Northwest Academy, and other educational and counseling programs for teens. Its employment grew slightly between 1999 and 2000.

In 2000, the Kootenai Tribe drew even bigger crowds to its Kootenai River Inn Casino in Bonners Ferry. Hotel-

motels receipts, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Travel & Convention Tax Report, increased 21.8 percent from \$1.6 million in the first ten months of 1999 to \$2.0 million in the first ten months of 2000.

Higher interest rates decreased construction activity in 2000. The value of construction permits granted by the City of Bonners Ferry was \$262,000 in the first nine months of 2000, 84.9 percent below the \$1,731,000 in the first nine months of 1999, according to First Security Bank's *Idaho Construction Report*.

Low agricultural prices and the summer's troubles in the lumber industry hampered retail growth. Taxable sales in Boundary County, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Sales Tax Report, fell 0.9 percent from \$35.6 million in the first three quarters of 1999 to \$35.3 million in the first three quarters of 2000. Most people expect retail sales to grow during the next year. A department store and electronics store opened in the last few months in Bonners Ferry. Richard and Linda Larson opened Larson's Department Store in the former JC Penney building. Ralph and Beverly Goding recently opened a 1,600-square-foot Radio Shack on Main Street.

The Kootenai Tribe and the City of Bonners Ferry are working together to create an economic development plan that will foster the growth of existing businesses and allow the community to recruit new businesses. A \$70,000 federal grant and \$10,000 each from the city, county, and tribe will be used to revitalize downtown Bonners Ferry with landscaping and ornamental street lamps, create a greenbelt for walking and biking along the Kootenai River, and develop the industrial park near the airport. In addition, two museums—one for the Kootenai Tribe and one about early Boundary County settlers—may be developed.

Kootenai County

Kootenai County's labor market grew tighter in 2000. Kootenai County's unemployment rate dropped from 8.1 percent in 1999 to an estimated 6.7 percent in 2000. Unemployment declined, because *Service-Producing Industries* expanded and many county residents found jobs just over the border in the Spokane Valley. Of the approximately 56,000 Kootenai County residents in the labor force, about 15 percent work in Spokane County, Washington. But Kootenai County not only exports labor, it also imports it from Bonner, Shoshone, and Benewah counties. In addition, the 2,800 people who move there each year continuously refresh Kootenai County's labor pool. Approximately, 108,000 people live in Kootenai County.

Employment in *Goods-Producing Industries* declined marginally in 2000. Job losses in *Lumber & Wood Products* offset job gains in *All Other Manufacturing* employment, while low precious metal prices forced a few job cuts in *Mining*. Higher interest rates slowed construction activity in 2000. The value of construction permits granted in Kootenai County, according to First Security Bank's *Idaho*

Construction Report, grew 1.1 percent from \$140.5 million in the first nine months of 1999 to \$142.2 million in the first nine months of 2000.

Call centers continued to add jobs in Kootenai County. Employment at the Coldwater Creek call center grew to 400 by late 2000. GTE Northwest (now Verizon) increased employment at the Coeur d'Alene order-processing center that it opened in 1998 to nearly 300. Pleased with the productivity of its Coeur d'Alene center, Verizon chose to open a second order-processing center there. The new order-processing center opened in the summer of 2000, and may employ 70 people by the end of the year.

The tourism industry performed well in 2000. The Silverwood Theme Park broke its previous attendance record. Triple Play, an entertainment complex, opened in Hayden, and will give tourists and locals more recreational opportunities. Hotel-motel receipts, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Travel & Convention Tax Report, increased 7.1 percent from \$30.5 million in the first ten months of 1999 to \$32.6 million in the first ten months of 2000.

With more tourists in town and population continuing to grow, all retail sectors, except building material stores, added jobs in 2000. Taxable sales in Kootenai County, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Sales Tax Report, grew 4.8 percent from \$602.2 million in the first three quarters of 1999 to \$630.9 million in the first three quarters of 2000.

Services and Government expanded to meet the needs of the growing population. Kootenai County's medical sector, led by the Kootenai Medical Center (KMC), added 300 jobs during the year. Rising enrollments at public schools and North Idaho College, whose fall enrollment passed 4,000 this year, created 170 jobs.

Shoshone County

For the first time since 1990, the county's unemployment rate fell below 10 percent. It fell from 11.3 percent in 1999 to an estimated 9.7 percent in 2000. The unemployment decline resulted more from increased job opportunities in Kootenai County than in Shoshone County.

In the 1990s, Shoshone County's population hovered around 14,000, and its labor force grew slowly from 6,600 to 6,900. The population stability is remarkable given the wrenching job losses when mines closed in the 1990s. The population remained stable, because retirees moved there to replace families that left to take jobs elsewhere and because other Shoshone County residents were able to find jobs in Kootenai County. Of the 6,200 Shoshone County residents who hold jobs, an estimated 1,000 of them hold jobs in Kootenai County.

Shoshone County's economy still relies heavily on mining of silver, lead, and zinc. The three major mines—the Sunshine, the Galena, and the Lucky Friday—each employ more than 200 people. Low silver prices forced

the Sunshine to reduce employment during the last year.

Shoshone County's next largest sector—tourism—continues to grow. Silver Mountain Resort at Kellogg and the smaller Lookout Pass Ski Area east of Wallace enjoyed a strong ski season in 1999. The summer tourist season was a little slower than expected. The net result was a 7.2 percent increase in hotel-motel receipts from \$2.1 million in the first ten months of 1999 to \$2.2 million in the first ten months of 2000, according to the Idaho Tax Commission's Travel & Convention Tax Report.

Shoshone County bucked the Panhandle's trend of declining construction activity. The value of construction permits granted in Shoshone County, according to First Security Bank's *Idaho Construction Report*, grew 46.7 percent from \$3.4 million in the first nine months of 1999 to \$5.0 million in the first nine months of 2000.

Retail Trade employment would have fallen in 2000, if it weren't for the continued growth of Dave Smith Motors in Kellogg. The dealership's one-price system, growing Internet sales, and airport shuttles for potential customers increased its employment from 70 jobs in 1994 to more than 200 jobs in 2000. Taxable sales in Shoshone County, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Sales Tax Report, fell 3.6 percent from \$69.7 million in the first three quarters of 1999 to \$67.2 million in the first three quarters of 2000.

The Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation (SVEDC) is developing a 78-acre light-industrial park at Smelterville. The park development is part of a \$32 million Superfund cleanup project funded by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. The park will offer companies a pleasant location next to Interstate 90 and the Smelterville Airport.

Silver Valley residents warmly welcomed the park's first tenant, Tele-Servicing Innovations (TSI), when it announced it would open a call center there. TSI will move into the park's first building when it is completed in early 2001. In the meantime, TSI hired 40 Silver Valley residents to work in temporary quarters in Coeur d'Alene, and buses them from Silver Valley to Coeur d'Alene. Once it moves into the park, the TSI call center will ramp up to 120 jobs. TSI and the industrial park are promises of future growth for Shoshone County, which endured many economic blows during the last two decades.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Seaport area, which includes both Nez Perce County in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington, is the perennial growth center of North Central Idaho. Total employment in Seaport decreased 2.4 percent in 2000 after five years of solid but slow growth. The civilian labor force also decreased 2.3 percent in 2000, after cruising along at a five-year average of 2.0 percent. The annual average unemployment rate of 3.8 percent in 2000 has been one of the lowest in the state, but negative developments in the last half of 2000 and 2001 will see the unemployment rate increase.

During the first six months of 2000, 296 jobs were lost in *Manufacturing*. Layoffs occurred in *Food Processing*, *Lumber and Wood Products*, *Paper and Allied Products* and *Metal Fabrication*. Additional layoffs are anticipated in *Lumber and Wood Products* and *Paper and Allied Products* in 2001. Because of these layoffs, the low unemployment rate is not an accurate picture of the condition of the labor market. Layoffs occurring in high wage manufacturing jobs will have a profound effect on reducing the amount of dollars in the general economy. In addition, the loss of *Manufacturing* payroll will produce a rippling affect of cutbacks across *Retail* and *Service* industries. Another problem has been that between 1997 and 1999, a majority of the new jobs were created in the *Service* and *Trade* industries. These jobs reduced the unemployment rate but the jobs were usually part-time with no benefits and near the bottom of the wage ladder. Workers in these part time jobs are counted as employed even though they are looking for full-time opportunities. As a result, a large pool of underemployed workers was created. Underemployed workers are

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington	Projected 2000	1999	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	34,636	35,456	-2.3
Unemployed	1,323	1,337	-1.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%
Total Employment	33,313	34,119	-2.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	5,140	5,436	-5.4
Goods-Producing Industries	1,239	1,320	-6.1
Mining	3,901	4,116	-5.2
Construction	111	179	-38.0
Manufacturing	712	778	-8.4
Lumber & Wood Products	1,759	1,825	-3.6
All Other Manufacturing	1,319	1,334	-1.1
Service-Producing Industries	20,280	20,555	-1.3
Transportation	1,369	1,339	2.3
Communication & Utilities	261	287	-9.0
Wholesale Trade	1,110	1,109	0.1
Retail Trade	5,102	5,221	-2.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,418	1,443	-1.7
Services	6,952	7,049	-1.4
Government Administration	1,790	1,802	-0.7
Government Education	2,278	2,307	-1.2

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

generally seeking full-time employment with benefits and wages above \$7.00 per hour. Counting these workers as employed reduces the unemployment rate but hides a growing problem.

Employment in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased to 25,420 in 2000. Although growth in urban economies throughout the state has slowed, expansion of the economy of the Seaport area has stopped and is decreasing. Only *Transportation* and *Health Services* created new jobs in 2000. The number of jobs in *Transportation* increased in the trucking sector throughout the year, as three trucking companies added new workers. Although *Services* recorded decreases, jobs in the health care sector of *Services* are at record levels. An expanding group of new health care professionals continue to move into the area. Only one major development, a large Convergys customer service center with 400 to 500 jobs, is planned for Lewiston in 2001. However, this development will be overshadowed by decreases in most other industries.

Employment diversity has increased from a traditional resource-based economy, but *Manufacturing* losses still affect the total economy and business attitude. In *Agriculture*, cattle producers welcomed the news of a gradual upswing in the cattle market. However, wheat and other small grain growers are concerned with low prices for their products. *Agriculture* employment has dropped 30.7 percent since 1987. The Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport, has played a major role in economic development. Because of concerns regarding endangered salmon runs, the future of the Port is in question. Nonetheless, the Port is a major economic player and could be a bright spot. New warehouses have been built in the Port to utilize road, rail, and water transportation.

Clearwater County

Total employment in 2000 is forecast to decrease 1.0 percent in Clearwater County. Since 1996, employment growth has been fragile. Over the five-year span between 1996 and 2000 employment decreased 2.8 percent. Clearwater County has not shared in the state's prosperity. As employment was decreasing in Clearwater County, employment in the state expanded by over 9.0 percent. Clearwater County in 2000 had the second highest unemployment rate at 12.5 percent among the 44 Idaho counties. Employment decreases reflect that business is suffering from cutbacks in two major employment industries, *Lumber & Wood Products* and the *U.S. Forest Service*, causing concern for the county's economic future.

Clearwater County depends on natural resources to drive its economy. Employment in the two major industries, *Government* and *Manufacturing*, especially in *Lumber & Wood Products*, has decreased 49 percent since 1980. Local sawmills in 2000 experienced wood shortages and a drop in wholesale prices for lumber and plywood. Potlatch Corporation's Jaype Plywood Mill in Pierce closed, and other mills in the county have had to temporarily lay off workers. Because employment has decreased, local groups are trying to diversify the local economy. Along with trying to attract new business, attention is being given to existing businesses to help them grow and create new jobs. In 2000, two employment sectors—*Other Manufacturing* and *Health Care*—produced new jobs. Summer tourism was up in 2000 and is expected to grow through 2004 as people from all over the country visit the county to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The scenic Lolo portion of the trail ending near Pierce has become a popular spot.

In addition to layoffs in *Lumber* and *Wood Products*, two other developments are cause for concern. The first is the resolution of the salmon issue and how it

will impact tourism and the Dworshak Dam. The Dworshak Reservoir and the Clearwater River provide recreational activities for residents and tourists. The second is the continuing cutbacks in U.S. Forest Service permanent and seasonal staff for the Clearwater National Forest.

Idaho County

Total employment is forecast to decrease 1.4 percent in 2000 in Idaho County. The economy has lost over 300 jobs from the 1994 record of 5,941. The 1996 closure of a major sawmill in Grangeville was expected to decrease employment even more. But other employment sectors in *Retail Trade* and *Service* industries created new jobs in spite of the closure, an indicator of a diversifying economy. In addition to losses in lumber, jobs in *Government* decreased because of cutbacks at the U.S. Forest Service. Another important employment industry that has decreased, *Agriculture*, is just one-third of what it was 20 years ago.

As in Clearwater County the economy in Idaho County is also heavily dependent on natural resources. *Lumber & Wood Products* employment is a large part of the labor force (11.8 percent). After years of decline, the number of jobs in *Lumber & Wood Products* continued to decrease in 2000. Temporary layoffs occurred in some area sawmills in the last half of 2000. Layoffs lasted between one and four weeks. On the plus side, *Industrial Machining* continues to be a strong sector. Local machining companies in the Grangeville and Cottonwood areas have gained national attention and are receiving orders from all over the country. According to whitewater and rafting guides on the Lochsa, Snake, and Salmon rivers, business increased in 1999 and the first half of 2000. Business would have been better had it not been for a bad forest fire season that caused some to cancel vacations to the area. Economic groups in Idaho County are encouraging development of a strawboard manufacturing plant. Strawboard is an attractive alternative to more expensive plywood used in the construction of furniture and houses. In addition to a manufacturer, economic groups are trying to hook a customer service center.

Latah County

In 2000, it is forecast that employment will increase 1.4 percent in Latah County. However, employment has decreased 7.7 percent since 1996, and is now below the record level in 1995 of 15,700. Employment peaked in 1995 because of growth in *Trade* and *Services*. Even with employment decreases, Latah County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Idaho. The University of Idaho (U of I), established in 1889, employs more than 40 percent of all workers in Latah County. The U of I's presence provides economic stability and

insulates the county from national economic cycles. A significant economic indicator for Latah County is the size of the student population at the U of I. In the first half of 2000, student enrollment increased and is expected to increase through the year 2001. As a result, employment at the U of I is expected to increase one percent in the next two years.

In other sectors, employment should increase in *Manufacturing*, *Trade*, and *Services*. Future employment increases in *Manufacturing* will occur because computer software and hardware companies that are currently in the U of I's Business Incubator will be expanding and leaving the incubator for larger facilities. Employment in *Trade* and *Services* will follow increases in the student population at the U of I. Whenever the student population increases so does the demand for workers in *Trade* and *Services*. *Construction* is a significant employment indicator of economic health in Latah County. According to builders and planners in the county, both residential and industrial construction is expected to increase in 2001.

Lewis County

Total employment in Lewis County is forecast to increase in 2000, but by only a few jobs. The number of jobs in *Construction* continued to increase, stimulating the economy in the first half of 2000. *Construction* increased because low land prices allowed people to build houses in Lewis County and commute to work in Lewiston. Three industries, *Agriculture*, *Lumber & Wood Products*, and *Government* dominate Lewis County's economy. Public lands within the county provide recreational opportunities, which help to diversify the economy. Agriculture in 2000 continued its decline. Since 1980, jobs in agriculture have decreased by one third. Wheat prices, at an all time low, are bleak news for an already depressed industry. In *Lumber & Wood Products*, mills in the county have had to temporarily lay off workers because of low wholesale prices and maintenance concerns. However, all of the mills did restart by the end of 2000.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Latah County

- A gift store with country flair has opened at the Palouse Mall in Moscow. Market Place Gifts occupies the space that formerly housed the Peppermill, a locally owned store that relocated to Pullman.
- Zumiez is a new store in the Palouse Mall that caters to younger generations with baggy clothes and alternative sports gear. It specializes in high-end brand name clothing, snowboards and skateboards.
- The biggest shopping center in Moscow has completed a \$3 million makeover. Opened in 1979, the Palouse Mall completely renovated the interior and re-landscaped the exterior. Occupancy is near max for the mall this year.
- Ace Truck and Tractor Diesel Repair opened at 2305 South Main in Moscow. They have certified mechanics that can repair all types of gasoline or diesel motors.

Idaho County

- The Hearthstone Lodge, a new bed and breakfast, opened at milepost 64, just west of Kamiah on Highway 12. The Lodge features world-class amenities. Most rooms are furnished in luxurious antiques.
- The Idaho County Free Press in Grangeville is planning a new office and press plant. Site preparation for construction has begun across Highway 95 at the west end of Main Street. The project is scheduled to be completed this winter. The new office and plant will offer improved parking and access and is designed to meet the needs of a modern publishing business.
- Subway in Grangeville will re-open in late November or early December. In addition to the franchise restaurant's well-known sandwiches, owners are planning on offering several new items as well.

Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- Home Depot, the home improvement mega store, is looking at Lewiston. The company is looking at a site south of Staples that would have to be filled in to provide the 11 acres of flat land it needs for a full-size 115,000-square foot store plus 15-20,000-square feet for a garden department. The company and the city are working on planning and zoning for the fill.
- Owners of Lewiston's Kentucky Fried Chicken are tearing down the restaurant's 1968 building to build a new one on the same site. Needing more room and a drive through window prompted the project. The new building is expected to open around New Year's Day.
- The Nez Perce Tribe is less than a year away from realizing its long-time goal of owning and operating a salmon hatchery. Construction of a \$16 million hatchery complex is under way on tribal property just east of the Cherrylane Bridge on the Clearwater River. When completed in September

of next year, 1.2 million Snake River fall Chinook and 620,000 spring Chinook will be produced at the hatchery. The fish will then be transported to a number of satellite facilities where they will be acclimated to local conditions before being released.

- U-Save Auto Rental and Sales has opened at 604 Bridge Street in Clarkston. The new business caters to customers who need replacement cars either because their own was in an accident or they have relatives in town and don't have a vehicle large enough to hold them. Unlike business travelers who use airport rental services, the downtown location is more convenient for the type of customers U-Save is trying to attract.
- The minimum wage next year in Washington State will be \$6.72 an hour, not \$6.71 as previously reported by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS). Minimum wage increases in Washington State are tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). BLS cited a software problem in their initial calculations of the CPI, which caused the penny error. The new minimum wage takes effect January 1 and applies to workers across Washington state in both agriculture and non-agriculture jobs. The current minimum wage is \$6.50 in Washington, \$5.15 in Idaho and \$5.15 nationally. There are no January 1, 2001 increases for either Idaho or the nation.

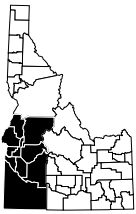
SPECIAL TOPIC: PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As the Idaho Department of Labor talks with employers and examines its databases, certain jobs have been determined to be employment opportunities in the future. The definition of "opportunity" includes those occupations that are the fastest growing, those occupations with high employment, and those jobs in high demand. Further, these "opportunity" occupations are those occupations that qualified applicants should have success in obtaining as identified via Job Service job orders. They are also jobs for which employers are unable to find qualified applicants, and new jobs emerging from new business in the region. As shown in Seaport Table 2, projected employment opportunities are listed alphabetically and are not ranked in order. All employment opportunities listed have an excellent outlook. An evaluation of a broader list of 538 occupations can be found at the Idaho Department of Labor home page: <http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/wage-survey/lopmenu.htm>.

Seaport Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities

Accountants and Auditors
Adjustment Clerks
Computer & Support Specialist
Automotive Mechanics and Service Technicians
Bartenders
Bill and Account Collectors
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing clerks
Carpenters
Cashiers
Child Care Workers
Cooks
Dental Hygienists
Electricians
Food Preparation Workers
Food Service and Lodging Managers
Guards
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers
Insurance Claims Clerks
Janitors and Cleaners
Laborers
Maintenance Repairers, General Utility
Medical Assistants
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants
Office Clerks, General
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders
Painters and Paperhangers
Parts Salespersons
Plumbers
Police Patrol Officers
Receptionists and Information Clerks
Registered Nurses
Salespersons
Roofers
Secretaries
Shipping and Receiving Clerks
System Analysts
Teachers
Truck Drivers
Welders and cutters
Waiters and waitresses

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for 2000 is 3.1 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This is six-tenths of a percentage point below the 1999 annual average rate of 3.7 percent. The number of employed persons increased by 9,892 individuals, or 4.5 percent, from 1999 and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 997, or 11.8 percent, over the year. The combination of the increasing number of employed and the decreasing number of unemployed resulted in an increase of 8,895 individuals, or 3.9 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from 1999 to 2000. *Civilian Labor Force* figures for the rest of the counties in southwest Idaho are located at the end of the newsletter in FYI Table 1. Washington County was the only county in southwest Idaho that experienced a higher annual average unemployment rate in 2000 than in 1999. All other southwest Idaho counties experienced a drop in the unemployment.

Over the year, the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 9,850 jobs or 4.7 percent. *Goods Producing Industries* experienced an increase of 1,173 jobs or 2.3 percent over the year. The largest increases were noted in *Construction & Mining* with an increase of 843 jobs and in *Electronic & Other Electric Equipment & Components* with an increase of 705 jobs over the year. *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* experienced the largest loss in *Goods Producing Industries* with a loss of 19.1 percent of jobs since 1999. The decrease in demand and increase in interest rates may be reasons for the decrease in employment in this industry. *Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* also lost employment over the year with notable losses in *Food & Kindred Products*, primarily *Canned Cured & Frozen Foods*.

The majority of new jobs in 2000 were created in the *Service Producing*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Projected 2000	1999	% Change From Last Year
Boise MSA, Ada and Canyon Counties			
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Unadjusted			
Civilian Labor Force	238,979	230,084	3.9%
Unemployment	7,488	8,485	-11.8%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1%	3.7%	
Total Employment	231,491	221,599	4.5%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	220,963	211,113	4.7%
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES			
Mining & Construction	16,029	15,186	5.6%
Manufacturing	36,919	36,588	0.9%
Durable Goods	28,373	27,834	1.9%
Lumber & Wood Products	3,527	3,804	-7.3%
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,020	1,261	-19.1%
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,508	2,543	-1.4%
Fabricated Metal Products	1,286	1,247	3.1%
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,013	8,004	0.1%
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,681	10,976	6.4%
Transportation Equipment	1,886	1,915	-1.5%
Other Durable Goods	1,980	1,888	4.9%
Nondurable Goods	8,545	8,754	-2.4%
Food Products	5,714	5,970	-4.3%
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,918	2,123	-9.7%
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,951	1,916	1.8%
Other Nondurable Goods	880	868	1.4%
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES			
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	168,016	159,339	5.4%
Transportation	11,566	10,949	5.6%
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	6,470	6,332	2.2%
Trade	5,096	4,616	10.4%
Wholesale Trade	54,241	50,911	6.5%
Durable Goods	13,201	12,570	5.0%
Nondurable Goods	7,791	7,402	5.3%
Retail Trade	5,410	5,169	4.7%
General Merchandise Stores	41,040	38,341	7.0%
Foods Stores	4,532	4,084	11.0%
Eating & Drinking Places	7,867	7,218	9.0%
Other Retail Trade	14,604	13,647	7.0%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	14,037	13,392	4.8%
Services	11,270	11,339	-0.6%
Business Services	57,433	53,982	6.4%
Health Services	14,441	13,295	8.6%
Hospitals	16,128	15,313	5.3%
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	7,365	7,032	4.7%
Other Services	4,328	3,930	10.1%
Government	22,536	21,444	5.1%
Federal Government	33,507	32,158	4.2%
State Government	4,860	4,803	1.2%
Education	12,659	11,855	6.8%
Administration	4,085	3,888	5.1%
Local Government	8,574	7,967	7.6%
Education	15,987	15,500	3.1%
Administration	10,432	10,105	3.2%
	5,556	5,395	3.0%

* Preliminary Estimate, includes December 1999-November 2000 figures.

**Estimates include all full- or part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industries, with 8,677 new jobs created, a 5.4 percent increase over last year. The only industry in this field that lost jobs over the year was *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* where 69 jobs were lost. The industries leading job growth over the year were *Retail Trade* (2,699), *Business Services* (1,146), *Health Services* (815), *Other Services* (1,092), and *State Government* (804).

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Boise City MSA

- Forbes magazine ranked the Boise City MSA as the fifth-best place in the United States to do business and advance a career. The magazine ranked 200 metropolitan regions by eight business categories including the following: wage and salary growth, job growth, and high-tech clustering.
- Boise State University announced that students at the Canyon County campus, Boise State University West, would not be attending classes until 2005, although crews have already begun installing underground utility and phone lines, landscaping, and constructing roads.
- First Security Bank and Zions Bancorp terminated their merger agreement in March, and soon after Wells Fargo announced the buyout of First Security Corporation for \$2.9 billion. The combined corporation ranks as the largest bank in Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico. A First Security Branch in Boise and one in Nampa were sold to Glacier Bancorp, Inc. and will operate as Mountain West Banks after the merger is completed. Wells Fargo and First Security also announced an expansion of First Security's call center and loan documentation center in Boise; the expansion could add 122 new jobs initially.
- Morrison Knudsen Corporation purchased the engineering and construction division of Raytheon, which employs 14,000 worldwide. The acquisition made Morrison Knudsen one of the top ten construction companies in the nation. It was also renamed the Washington Group International, Inc., after its newest chairman Dennis Washington, who arrived four years ago and rescued the company from bankruptcy.
- Alaska Airlines, Inc. recently announced plans for a new reservations service center in Boise in 2001. The new call center will be constructed on West Overland Road, near the Maple Grove intersection, and will answer calls regarding travel reservations, departure and arrival schedules, and other flight information. About 200 people will be employed at the Alaska Air Boise call center.
- Wal-Mart expanded the Boise store to a Supercenter. The store remained open during the remodel. The chain opened two new Supercenters in Canyon County on August 16, and construction started on Fairview Avenue next to the Texas Roadhouse restaurant, in the Crossroads Shopping Center, and at the corner of Glenwood and State Streets in Boise. Completion is expected in 2001. In addition, Home Federal and Wal-Mart announced a deal in late June that will place a Home Federal branch in all ten of the Wal-Mart retail outlets opening in Idaho this year. Wal-Mart has no future plans for construction of additional Supercenters in the Treasure Valley once their newest stores open in 2001.
- Boise's old Power House, located near the connector, was renovated into an event center and offices. The Power House Event Center will house the commercial real estate office of Kowallis & Mackey in a loft on the second floor of the facility that overlooks the event center area. The event area will be 5,000-square feet in area and be available for a variety of events.
- After Albertson's merger with American Stores, it is the second largest grocery chain in the country and moved from 92 to 24 on Fortune 500's top company list. Albertson's, Inc. will build a new store to replace the existing building at the corner of Overland and Vista in Boise. The Albertson's located at 2500 E. Blaine Street in Caldwell started a remodel and expansion project that should be completed in January 2001. In addition, Albertson's opened Boise's first Sav-On store earlier this year at the former Shavers grocery store site on Bogus Basin Road.
- In downtown Boise many projects started, including the construction of the \$62.6 million Ada County Courthouse, which should open in February 2002. Many businesses also opened downtown, including the following fast-food chains: McDonald's on Main Street, Subway on the corner of Ninth and Main, and Blimpie in the Bank of America Center. The Mosaic Gallery Wine Bar opened in the space next to Cristina's Bakery & Coffee Bar at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets in Boise. Mortimer's Idaho Cuisine replaced Renaissance Ristorante Italiano at 110 South 5th Street in downtown Boise. The Bon was remodeled for new floors, wall fixtures, carpeting, and painting that corresponded with the expansion of the furniture floor space at the downtown outlet.
- The Basque Block downtown completed a \$350,000 renovation project, which created "a plaza with the open-air feel of a European street." In the same area, a 4,000 square-foot warehouse on Grove Street between Sixth Street and Capitol Boulevard was renovated into a marketplace. Called The Grove Street Place, it houses Saffron, Café Bottego, and The Reading Room, and is designed to be an open gathering place for shoppers and restaurant-goers.

- The Idaho Stampede recently signed a three-year lease with Boise's Bank of America Centre. Stampede representatives believe that the move will bring more people to the games because of the B of A Center's proximity to downtown restaurants, bars, and shops.
- The Downtown Boise YMCA celebrated the completion of its expansion/renovation project that began in March 1999. The expansion adds 24,000 square feet and added another full-sized pool, a children's pool, four new private locker rooms, a larger cardio room, a second full-sized gym with basketball hoops, and an expanded Youth Activity Center that features a rooftop playground. YMCA officials also approved the Western Canyon Youth Club in Caldwell to become a YMCA affiliate. The long-term vision is to have a full-facility family YMCA in Caldwell that serves the entire spectrum of that community. Construction of the new facility may take 12 months, and the Caldwell Y could be operational in as soon as two years, although no formal timeline has been announced.
- The Nampa Boys & Girls Club opened in late January. Kids ranging in age from 6 to 18 are invited to join the club for a \$10 annual fee and programs include arts and crafts, sewing, computer classes, cooking classes, and sports. The club is open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays.
- Many businesses announced plans to build new facilities in 2000, including Zamzows near Wal-Mart on Overland, Albertson's at Vista and Overland, Albertson's at Overland and Maple Grove, and a Walgreens at Fairview and Locust Grove. Murphy's Seafood & Steak House and the Chart House completed remodeling projects to attract customers. Stuart Anderson's Black Angus Restaurant reopened in a new location near the Edwards 21 Theater Complex. Mor Furniture for Less opened its first Idaho store in the former Best building in Boise in May. Lithia Motors, Inc. announced plans to build a new Ford dealership at the former Roundtree Chevrolet site on Fairview Avenue.
- Idaho Athletic Club announced plans in July to construct another club on State Street in Boise. The company is planning a 28,000 square-foot building on Lakeharbor Lane, initially, with additional construction planned later. The new building will employ 35 to 45 full and part-time employees. The new club is expected to open by summer 2001.
- Fred Meyer, Inc. announced plans to start construction of a new retail outlet at the corner of Franklin and Orchard in 2001. The company also announced plans to tear down the Franklin Shopping Center and build a new Fred Meyer store that will carry groceries and general merchandise.
- Shari's officials have announced plans to open an additional Boise restaurant in Capitol Village at Capitol Boulevard and Boise Avenue. Also opening soon in Capitol Village are Quizno's sandwich shop, Panda Express, and Moxie Java to accompany the anchor store Office Depot in the complex.
- Hewlett-Packard Company opened its first HP Business Solutions Center in Boise. The new business center was designed to provide integrated services and support for computer systems to businesses. The Center features a service repair area and a training room for people to learn computer systems and programs.
- Jabil Circuit opened its new facility in Meridian in February and started with 450 employees in the Meridian plant. The company also announced plans to expand its Meridian manufacturing facility. The move could create up to 700 jobs. The expansion will add 98,000 square-feet of space to the existing facility, and should be completed in 2001. Jabil is also expanding its other sites around the world.
- Micron Technology, Inc. aligned with several companies in 2000, including Compaq Computer Company, Dell Computer Company, Fujitsu, and KMT Semiconductor Ltd. The company also sold its Texas manufacturing plant to TriQuint, an integrated circuit maker headquartered in Portland. The 80 employees currently working at the plant will be transferred to an existing site in Dallas. The company also began a \$200 million expansion in South Boise that will bring 500 jobs into the economy. The 500,000 square-foot expansion project will include the construction of five new buildings—a new research and development fabrication area with clean rooms, a lab building, an office building, a new cafeteria, and a building for facility support. The new research and development facility will bring many high-paying engineering jobs to the area, as well as a wide range of other positions. The expansion project should be complete by the end of 2001. The company also announced the opening of its Lehi manufacturing plant in Utah.
- Crucial Technology, a division of Micron Technology, Inc., opened a call center in Meridian that employs 230 individuals. That number could go up as high as 500 in the future. Crucial Technology also opened an online store that specializes in PC peripherals.
- Micronpc.com announced the release of a new laptop, the Transport ZX, and introduced AskMAX, which is based on the Ask Jeeves' technology that is already utilized. AskMAX is an "online answer expert" for the entire www.micronpc.com website. It also announced the release of ClientPro Ct, the newest member of the ClientPro family. It is targeted for network organizations that need solid performance and a good value.

The ClientPro Ct is expandable and allows customers to configure one product to accommodate a number of different end-users, and is available for less than \$1,000. The new Microsoft Windows Millennium edition (Me) operating system is now offered in its desktops and notebook computers. Windows Me will allow the customers to create their own home networks to share printers, Internet connections, and other devices.

- Micronpc.com awarded Kendall Employment Plus a three-year contract for temporary staffing services, and signed a deal with Digital River to handle the e-commerce side of its online parts and accessories store, e-additions.com. It acquired a subsidiary of Inacom Corporation, Inacom Government Systems. The acquisition will double the amount of Micron employees in the Washington D.C. area. Deals with Staples, RadioShack Canada, and Outpost.com to sell Micron computers were announced. The company was awarded a blanket purchase agreement to provide information technology solutions to the U.S. Army's Armor Center at Fort Knox, KY, and announced an agreement with Advanced Micro Devices to be its new microprocessor vendor.
- HostPro, a Micronpc.com subsidiary, became the first North American ASP (Application Service Provider) to offer interBiz software packages. Customers will be able to rent these software packages for managing the manufacturing and financial aspects of their business. HostPro also invested \$7 million in Bird On A Wire, a Canadian Internet start-up company that should expand HostPro's international presence. The company aligned with Cardservice International, a provider of real-time secure credit-card transactions to merchants, which will allow for some of the lowest-cost transaction fees in the industry.
- Western Electronics started construction on its new manufacturing plant in Meridian in late June. The new 100,000 square foot building will also house the company's headquarters. It currently employs 130 individuals, but expects the work force to increase to 200 when the building is completed in December. Eventually, 400 individuals could be employed by Western Electronics at the Meridian site.
- ZiLOG hired 25 additional people at the Nampa plant because of increased sales. ZiLOG created several strategic alliances with Sunbeam Corporation and Calibre, Inc. The company also introduced a new embedded software suite in early September that would allow customers to use 8-bit microprocessors to access the Internet. The new, affordable suite runs on the company's Z180 8-bit microprocessor family. This software suite is available as of October 2000. For more information, please see www.zilog.com.
- RMC Internet Services announced in late May that it acquired eight Internet providers. The acquisition increased RMC's customer base by approximately 250 percent. The company has also moved to a new office on Federal Way.
- U.S. West updated its network connections for the residents of Canyon County. The local connections were updated to fiber-optic networks that added digital Internet capabilities to Caldwell as well as improving video-conferencing to Canyon County. The company also changed names to Qwest Communications and unveiled its new all-digital wireless voice and data service for Canyon and Ada Counties. The new service integrates customers' home phones, office phones, pagers, computers, and cell phone services into one cellular phone. Packages range from \$30 to \$75 based on the number of features ordered.
- The Meridian Crossroads Shopping Center is almost completely occupied as Sportsman's Warehouse, Shopko, Office Depot, Shepler's Western Wear, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Old Navy, Bath & Body Works, Famous Footwear, GNC, and Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill took residence there. Louie's Pizza & Italian Restaurant opened on Fairview Avenue near Eagle Road in Meridian and the Holiday Inn Express and Suites opened at 800 Allen Street in Meridian (I-84 and Eagle Road).
- City Market at the corner of Eagle Road and Chinden Boulevard opened. The market includes a fish market, butcher shop, produce market, deli, wine shop, flower shop, coffee house, and a couple of staple aisles. Also, Boise Planning and Zoning Commission approved plans for a 125,400 square-foot Target store proposed at another corner of the intersection. It is expected to open in August 2001.
- The Idaho Center Auto Mall project began and is almost completed as the year comes to an end. Twenty-seven acres of property on the corner of Garrity Boulevard and I-84 will house the Auto Mall that will include Edmark GM Superstore, Dan Weibold Ford, and Peterson Dodge, Chrysler, Plymouth, Jeep.
- The Karcher Mall Renovation Project began this year, two years after the announcement of the project. The main entrance, center court, hallway, ceiling, floors, parking lot, and other entrances were renovated. Sportsman's Warehouse has plans to open a new store in the mall and Intermountain Outdoor Sports opened an outlet in the mall in May.
- The Edwards 14 Theater Complex on Karcher Road is packed with retail eateries including Blimpie, Moxie Java, Red Robin, and the Outback Steakhouse. Shari's

was built across the street and plans for an Olive Garden in the vicinity have been announced.

- A new Office Depot store opened in Nampa next to Fred Meyer, and Macs Hobby & Craft built a superstore on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard. Carl's Jr. opened a new restaurant in Nampa and announced plans to open another restaurant in Caldwell in the near future. The Jack In The Box franchise opened a third store in Nampa on Franklin Road between Noodles and Interstate 84. Idaho Central Credit Union also built a downtown Nampa branch office.
- Blacker's Complete Home Furnishings converted its operation on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard to an Ashley Furniture Home Store. Ashley Furniture is the fifth largest furniture chain in the world. The ownership remained the same, but Ashley Furniture manufactured products are now sold at the location. The conversion brought a larger selection of furniture to the store.
- Ste. Chapelle Winery announced an expansion that will triple the complex and expand the vineyards, which will result in a greater volume of wine produced. The expansion is expected to be completed sometime in 2002.
- The J.R. Simplot Company, headquartered in Boise, has announced plans to buy three Nestle USA Foodservices Division potato processing plants, one in Nampa and the other two in Washington. Nestle officials decided to focus on other sectors of the food and beverage production industries, and Simplot officials saw the opportunity to expand their domestic potato processing and exporting business. Simplot plans to operate the Nestle plants with the same management and employees, which means that the 391 employees at the Nampa plant and the 898 combined employees in the two Washington plants will not be affected.
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center started construction on a new \$13 million building that will house an additional diagnostic cardiac catheterization lab. The new addition will enhance St. Als' heart program. The four-story, 80,000-square foot building will be joined to the North Tower by an enclosed sky bridge. The new wing is expected to be completed by late August 2001.
- West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell unveiled a new procedure that significantly reduces the amount of surgery required for melanoma and breast cancer patients, called sentinel lymph node biopsy. The new outpatient procedure is far less invasive than the traditional approach.

Adams County

- The Adams County Historical Society received a

\$259,070 grant from the Idaho Transportation Department in March. The grant was part of the state's Transportation Enhancement Program and will be used in the renovation of the two-story, 7,000-square foot brick building in New Meadows. The Pacific and Northern Idaho Railroad Depot will be restored, and once completed, the first floor will have 446-square feet for activities supporting historic functions and 1,531-square feet of office, retail, or commercial use. Renovations on the structure should begin near July 2001.

- A \$600,000 ten-year bond was approved for the Council Community Hospital in early August. \$450,000 will be used to pay off outstanding debts, \$110,000 will be used to upgrade the computer system to be compliant with Medicaid/Medicare billing requirements, and the remaining \$40,000 will be used for emergency room equipment, lab equipment purchases, telephone system upgrades, and kitchen appliance repair. The ultimate goal is to make the hospital as efficient as possible, ensuring operation in the long run. The hospital also acquired a Critical Care Access designation in 2000, which allows the hospital to be staffed by mid-level medical providers when necessary, have lower operating costs, and receive higher reimbursements from Medicaid.
- In early October, the Boise Cascade Community Park was officially opened. Park signs were designed and placed at the park. A new entranceway and dedication sign were created and the original leveling and seeding has been completed. City volunteers are to be thanked for all of their hard work on the project. Also, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Program has donated \$20,000 to the Adams County Recreation District to use towards the construction of a pond at the park. The pond will provide irrigation water for the park and double as a fishery that will be stocked with rainbow trout by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The pond is expected to be completed by next summer.
- The new Adams County Courthouse opened in January in Council. The Council Valley Garden Club took on the project of landscaping the courthouse, and Phase I of a three-year plan started. The final project will include the planting of trees and shrubs in Spring 2001, the planting of grass in low-lying areas, lining the pathways with flowers, building a sign for the facility, and planting a garden and orchard.
- The New Meadows School was renovated in 2000. Improvements included the installation of air conditioners in the library and computer room, technological upgrades throughout the building, the installation of new furnaces and lights, a fire-alarm upgrade, the installation of water backflow protection, and elementary classroom water heaters.

- A & W All-American Foods opened an outlet in the Turning Point Chevron in New Meadows.

Boise County

- A new outdoor amphitheater, the Starlight Mountain Theatre, held its grand opening on May 26. The new theater was built on the banks of the Middle Fork of the Payette River in Garden Valley. The theater is scheduled to produce three Broadway musicals each summer. Summer 2000 selections were: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "The Sound of Music," and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."
- President Clinton declared Boise County a federal disaster area because of the wildfires this year. The declaration released assistance to victims and businesses that have suffered damage as a result of the wildfires. The assistance effort was coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Aid to the victims could include grants to pay for temporary housing, loans to cover business losses, and other serious disaster-related expenses.

Elmore County

- Elmore County was one of the other nine counties designated as a disaster area and eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding throughout Idaho.
- An expansion at the Mountain Home Air Force Base will result in 179 new military personnel and three new civilian positions. The new positions will be distributed throughout the base, although most of the new positions will be allocated to the 390th and 391st fighter squadrons. The extra personnel on the base will enhance the wing's ability to fulfill its new assignment as an "on-call" rapid-reaction force for the United States Air Force.
- The Steele-Reese Education Center, a multi-media facility that will conduct environmental and astronomical education programs, was dedicated at the Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park in October. The park will now provide extensive programs on the natural history and wildlife of the park as well as astronomical studies. Future plans for the park include expanding the observatory capabilities, and to eventually include a solar system walkway and professional research staff. There are also plans to create an activity center that will give students a "hands on" approach to learn more about the unique environmental conditions that created the park and the wildlife that live in the area.
- The Elk Flat Campground was reconstructed by the USDA Forest Service to accommodate groups of campers and recreational vehicles. The money for the renovation came partly from an Idaho Department of Parks

and Recreation matching grant. The project was completed in July.

- PC Hut.com added a new classroom and 12 new computer systems to their existing facility. The new classroom and computer systems will be used for classes at the learning center.
- Many new businesses opened in Mountain Home over the past year including: Lucy's Beauty Shop and Massage Therapy Clinic, Sew Express, Taco Maker, Jake's Over the Top, Mayan Jamma Juice, the Airbase Road Chevron/Blimpie, Desert Mountain Cycles, Creative Reflections, Fashion Craft, the Crafters Outlet, the Abundant Live Food Bank, American Cash Express (A.C.E.), Wal-Mart Supercenter, Home Federal Savings (inside the Wal-Mart Supercenter), and Mirastar (the Wal-Mart gas station).
- The Pilot Truck Stop was virtually destroyed in a fire on July 11, 2000. Between 100 and 150 workers were displaced as company officials surveyed the damage and made decisions. The three restaurants that were housed in the truck stop—Dairy Queen, Subway, and the Great American Café—were destroyed in the fire. Officials say they want to rebuild the businesses, although no further plans have been given.

Gem County

- Phase two of the renovation/expansion project at Walter Knox Memorial Hospital was completed in 2000. This phase involved the addition of a new wing for patient rooms and the remodel of existing patient rooms; all finished rooms will have a private bathroom/shower and cable television. The hospital also began offering cancer treatments to residents in February. On a related health care note, the Valley Family Health Care clinic opened the doors of its new 10,000 square foot facility in Emmett in June 2000.
- The City of Emmett approved the Meadowbrook Apartment Complex in early 2000. The new complex will be built on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets and offer low to medium priced apartments. Tax revenues from the property are expected to exceed \$25,000 per year for the City.
- Several new businesses opened in Emmett over the past year including the following: Loving Adult Day-care, Twice Nice, Audio EFX, Val's TV & Appliance, Perfect Image Beauty Supply & Gifts, The Nail Shop, Central Furniture, La Perla Mexican Store, Michele et Amis, Café Amore, Dynamic Electronics, and American Mortgage.
- The 66th Annual Cherry Festival was held at the end of June in Emmett. The five-day festival included a carni-

val, beauty pageant, a fun run/walk, an art fair, quilt show, parades, softball games, and of course cherry pie-eating contests. For the first time in eight years, cherries grown in orchards around the valley were available for picking during the festival. Cherries were sold in town, and directions to local orchards were available for people who wanted to pick their own.

Owyhee County

- A study conducted by the University of Idaho, the Owyhee County Social and Economic Assessment, was presented to the Owyhee County commissioners in January. The conclusions of the study showed that the economy relies heavily on agriculture. It also revealed that Owyhee County is losing money because people who live in Owyhee County are working in other counties and spending their money elsewhere.
- The Owyhee County Commissioners agreed to fund the first phase of the enhancement of the 911 emergency telephone system. Phase one of the project includes a "needs and resources" assessment, the completion of rural addressing, and system mapping. Phase two of the project will consist of installing the necessary equipment, which will include a database and dispatch center. This project has been in the works for three years. No final date of implementation has been announced.
- The former Job Corps site south of Marsing was sold in late March. The Ertl's of Ertl Enterprises in Eagle purchased the property at an auction. The 52-acre site includes 24 buildings, and the Ertl's plan to build a river-front home and renovate the warehouses for businesses to occupy. Also, they want to turn some of the property into a camp for children. The details are still undecided.
- A new barn was built at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds. The new 120 by 200 foot barn replaces the barn that was burned down in 1997. The new barn was ready before the county fair.
- Several new businesses opened in Owyhee County during 2000, including Strike A Pose Dance Academy, The Marsing Resource Center's Computer Lab Fun Center, Quintessence Aromatics, Snake River Upholstery, and Main Street Supply in Marsing. Complete Animal Feed and Supply, Perfection Repair, the Trojan Hut and Homedale Auto Recyclers opened in Homedale.

Payette County

- Education Financial Services moved from Payette to a larger facility in Fruitland. The company has plans to double its employment count from 15 to 30 by the middle of 2001. Expansion of the new facility is projected.

- Lettunich & Sons, the large livestock operation outside of Fruitland, started auctioning off its Angus and Brangus registered livestock herd in late April. About 2,400 head of animals were to be sold in the three-day auction. The auction was advertised nationally and in Mexico and Canada; buyers were expected to come to the Treasure Valley to purchase animals with proven records of quality and production. The equipment and real estate was liquidated at an auction held in late May.
- Payette County held an open house for the new jail facility in late July. The open house included a tour of the nearly completed facility. The addition to the current jail includes 53 beds, a full laundry area, kitchen, dining area/recreation room, visitation area, inmate work area, and a medical exam/breath testing room.
- The Fruitland Planning and Zoning Commission awarded a conditional use permit to Fleetwood Retail Corporation of Idaho, which will allow the business to sell manufactured homes at Bouvia Fleetwood Home Center along Gayway Junction in Fruitland.
- Farmers & Merchants State Bank opened a branch in Fruitland in July 2000. The business is now operating in a modular facility and will move into a permanent facility in early 2001.
- Several Payette County businesses moved to larger locations or expanded their own properties within the past year. The Payette County Extension Service moved to a new, larger office on North 9th Street in 2000. Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company will expand its current facility by 4,500 square feet; the addition will be built across from the current facility and house the customer service operations. The Fruitland City Hall addition was completed in August; the addition included a fire training room, chamber of commerce office, city council room, and new fire station.
- The new small businesses that opened within the county over the past year include Kwik Copies, Etc., Waves Hair and Nail Salon, The Fruit Basket, and Mom's Curios and Collectibles.
- The Pheasant Ridge Driving Range was opened in July in the Nu Acres area off of U.S. Highway 95. The owners also announced the opening of a 9-hole executive golf course in the spring of 2001.

Valley County

- Several artists opened galleries in the McCall area in 2000. LaRose Sculpture Gallery opened in the Yacht Club Building, Origins of Art opened on Lake Street in McCall, with a sister store opening up in the Boise Towne Square Mall in Boise, and Looney's Landing Studio opened in the McCall Mall within the past year.

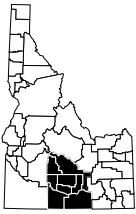
- A number of businesses moved, or opened within Valley County in 2000. Adventure Paint & Home Décor moved from North Third Street to Commercial Street in McCall. Rumors Salon in Village Square added a Massage Therapy Clinic to their list of services over the past year. In Cascade, the Chief's High Country Inn and Restaurant changed ownership last year, with the new owners remodeling the restaurant and changing the menu.
- McCall Public Library officials announced an expansion project that would add 1,800 square feet onto the existing building in the form of a meeting room/community center that could hold 10 people and also act as additional storage space for the library. The library also received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to add two computer stations that will hold a variety of software programs and resources available to the community. The Cascade Public Library also received money from the foundation to provide one computer station in its building.
- Several nonprofit organizations moved within McCall over the past year including the Payette Lakes Medical Clinic, which opened its new building to the public in January. The McCall Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop opened in July, the McCall Job Service and Department of Health and Welfare moved into a combined office building off of US Highway 55 in October, and the McCall Fire Station announced plans to build an 18,600 square foot building.
- Plans for a new building that will house the Meadows Valley Ambulance Service and the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District in New Meadows were made with the proposed completion date of Fall 2001.
- Shore Lodge officials announced a delay in the opening of the Lodge until June 2001. At that time, the renovation project should be complete, in time for the peak tourist season. Whitetail Golf Course also announced that it would open in June to coincide with the reopening of Shore Lodge in McCall.
- Hotel McCall officials began a 15,000 square foot expansion and renovation project in August. The additional building will be connected to the old building by a shared entryway and an elevated walkway. The project should be finished by June 2001.
- In mid-January, Brundage Ski Resort proposed an expansion plan to the Payette National Forest. If approved by the U.S. Forest Service, Brundage would add five chairlifts, approximately 1,500 acres of chairlift served terrain, a mountaintop restaurant, two skier service facilities, 227 acres of groomed runs, 5.3 acres of additional parking, support facilities, and mountain-biking trails.

Washington County

- The Washington County Commissioners and Planning & Zoning Commission approved a special use permit for a gravel pit to be built in the Goodrich area, north of Cambridge. The group did place a condition on the permit that reserved the right for the commission to place restrictions on the operation in the future; this was done so that the gravel pit will not hinder future development and residential construction of the area.
- The Weiser downtown revitalization project started in June and was completed in early November, just in time for the groundbreaking of the Vendome Events Center. The new downtown community center is being built on the corner of State and Commercial Streets and should be open sometime during the summer of 2001.
- The 48th Annual National Old-Time Fiddlers Contest was held in late June in Weiser. Over 350 musicians participated in the musical competition. Thousands of people came to Weiser to participate in the events, which included the musical competition, arts & crafts shows, barbecues, a parade, and a motorcycle rodeo. Merchants from Weiser and the surrounding areas benefited from the influx of participants and spectators to this annual event.
- Several new businesses opened in the Weiser area during 2000, including Curves for Women, a women-only fitness and weight-loss center, Fruits and Vegetables With A Peel, a new produce merchant, Perceptions Custom Embroidery, and Spanky's Grill, a family steakhouse.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The average unadjusted unemployment rate from December 1999 to November 2000 was 3.9 percent, which is seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than the 1999 annual average unemployment rate of 4.6 percent. The drop in unemployment was a combination of a 1.9 percent increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* and a subsequent decrease in the average number of unemployed workers in 2000.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 850 jobs or 2.3 percent on average from 1999 to 2000. The largest sector increase was in *Services* with a 10.2 percentage-point increase, followed by *Food Processing* with a 9.6 percent increase. The sector with the highest percentage decrease was *Manufacturing-Durable Goods*, dropping 7.1 percent, although the decrease represented a decline of only 80 jobs. *Retail Trade* declined by 3.8 percent although Home Depot opened in Twin Falls and Wal-Mart opened in Jerome. This represents a certain caution in retail staffing, and the decline showed up especially in smaller retail fashion shops and in grocery store staffs. *Government Education* showed a 4.2 percent decline. This was attributable to a significant drop in enrollment in the Twin Falls and the Gooding School Districts that caused some teacher and teacher aide cutbacks in those districts. The outlook for *Government-Education* jobs in the Magic Valley Labor Market Area is very guarded since the drops in enrollment have continued. The Twin Falls School District is projecting further teacher cuts and the elimination of some classified staff positions during the 2001 school year.

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties	Projected 2000	1999	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	48,770	47,850	1.9
Unemployed	1,910	2,210	-13.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	4.6	
Total Employment	46,860	45,640	2.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	37,900	37,050	2.3
Goods-Producing Industries	7,280	7,020	3.7
Mining	2,080	2,030	2.5
Construction	5,200	4,990	4.2
Manufacturing	780	840	-7.1
Lumber & Wood Products	4,420	4,150	6.5
All Other Manufacturing	3,430	3,130	9.6
Service-Producing Industries	990	1,020	-2.9
Transportation	30,620	30,030	2.0
Communication & Utilities	3,000	2,840	5.6
Wholesale Trade	2,390	2,390	0.0
Retail Trade	7,770	8,080	-3.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,410	1,420	-0.7
Services	8,990	8,160	10.2
Government Administration	3,660	3,590	1.9
Government Education	3,400	3,550	-4.2

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Overall, however, the Magic Valley experienced strong growth in job creation and a subsequent reduction in unemployment rates. Despite some serious concerns in the agricultural sectors due to low commodities prices, the outlook for the Magic Valley is continued growth, even if it is slowing. Unemployment will probably average between 4.0 and 4.5 percent at least in the near-term of 2001.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- Independent Meats, one of Twin Falls County's largest employers, completed and opened a new freezer warehouse. Many city and business leaders as well as representatives from Pacific Rim countries were on hand for the official grand opening of the new facility. The new freezer warehouse is 36,000 square feet with 200 tons of refrigeration capacity. A freezer with 12,000 square feet of capacity can

keep meat at ten degrees Fahrenheit and there are two blast freezers that can flash freeze 40,000 pounds of product in twelve hours for export to other countries. Japan is the primary importer of Independent Meat's products, but the company is expanding its market share throughout the Pacific Rim. This expansion has greatly expanded its capability to export meat products anywhere in the world.

- Home Depot, a national leader in hardware products, opened a new store in Twin Falls in April 2000. Magic Valley Job Service assisted in the original recruitment efforts for Home Depot and the response was overwhelming. In the initial recruitment, prior to turning the responsibility over to Home Depot's human resources division, Magic Valley Job Service took over 1,000 applications for 150 jobs. Home Depot opened on April 6, 2000, as scheduled, and the company is very pleased with its workforce.
- Twin Falls County also experienced a boom in technology jobs in 2000. In April 2000, Discovery Research Group, a major call center, opened in Twin Falls. Discovery is a non-sales outbound call center that conducts market research and political polling. Discovery hired about sixty workers at first and has expanded its workforce to about 100 workers. Magic Valley Job Service assisted with the initial recruitment and the company was very pleased with the quality of workers recruited.
- A new veterans' health clinic opened in Twin Falls in June 2000. The Twin Falls community-based outpatient clinic is located at 676 Shoup Avenue West. Previously, veterans had to travel to Boise for even the most routine checkups and can now get those services in Twin Falls. The clinic offers such services as periodic examinations, office visits for acute chronic medical illnesses, immunizations, health promotion and prevention, and referrals to Veteran's Affairs for necessary specialty care.
- Historic Downtown and Old Towne Twin Falls hired a new Executive Director to help coordinate efforts aimed at improving its image and promoting growth for this part of Twin Falls. Tim Jones was chosen for this position and began his duties in May.
- The Twin Falls City Council approved a proposal by developer Craig Nielsen to build a high-rise ho-

tel and convention center on the Snake River Canyon Rim. The hotel will be seven stories high and will also include hiking trails and a retail strip mall. Groundbreaking for this project has already begun.

- SMI Joist, a subsidiary of Commercial Metals Company, opened a new regional technical office in Twin Falls. Magic Valley Job Service assisted in the recruitment of seven full-time workers for the operation. SMI markets steel joists manufactured by SMI factories in four locations in the United States. It employs sales, clerical, drafting, and engineering workers. Eventually the company will employ twenty workers.
- In response to citizen's concerns regarding dairy waste and odor, the Twin Falls County Commissioners have imposed a moratorium on new dairy placement within the county. The county plans to study various means of curtailing odor and waste prior to authorizing additional dairies. The moratorium will be in effect until at least March 2001.
- Labor Ready, a new temporary employment business, opened in Twin Falls in 2000. The Tacoma-based business is unique in that it recruits workers to its office every morning and employers choose workers on a daily basis. Labor Ready's goal is to deliver workers within an hour of a client's call, and to provide payment to the worker at the end of the day.
- Lamb-Weston and Glanbia Foods participated in the Career Fair at Orofino on November 16, 2000. They were there to recruit workers from the Pierce and Weippe areas who were affected by the closure of the Potlatch Corporation's Jaype timber mill in Pierce. Lamb-Weston has hired approximately nineteen workers from North Idaho to work in Twin Falls and Glanbia Foods, Inc. indicated it had interviewed some prospects for its cheese factories in Richfield and Gooding. Both companies were looking for maintenance workers and other skilled occupations that are in short supply in the Magic Valley.
- The Twin Falls School District has determined that it will need to eliminate nine teaching positions for the 2001-2002 school year because of dropping enrollment. Even more classified positions will be lost. The enrollment count is 6,860, down by 186 students from a year ago. That will translate into less state funding next school year.

- Shoshone Falls Park is undergoing a \$1 million renovation, which began November 13, 2000 and will continue until May 30, 2001. A new overlook platform along with an expanded parking lot and new restrooms is being constructed. Until the new overlook is completed, the overlook area is closed and the entire park will be closed in the spring of 2001 when Idaho Power begins burying cable.
- The Old Towne Business Improvement District (BID) and Downtown Business Improvement District of Twin Falls voted in September 2000 to merge the two Districts into one BID named Historic Old Towne Twin Falls. Earlier in the year, the Old Towne BID hired Tim Jones to be its new Executive Director. Mr. Jones will continue in that capacity for the merged BID. As a result of the merger, Mr. Jones' office was moved from the second floor of the First Security Building on Main Street to a more accessible location at 113 Shoshone Street North.

Jerome, Gooding Lincoln, Camas, and Blaine Counties

- Saint Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome changed hands in a three-way agreement. The Jerome Hospital and its owners, the Idaho Corporation of Benedictine Sisters, announced a joint agreement with Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise and Benedictine Health Systems of Duluth, Minnesota. Under the agreement, Saint Alphonsus and its owners, Trinity Health Services, are the new owners and Benedictine Health Systems will take care of day-to-day operations.
- A new 151,980 square foot Wal-Mart Super Center opened in Jerome in August 2000. The new facility has a full service grocery department, electronics department, and auto center in addition to a regular department store. The company initially hired 415 employees and received over 4,000 applicants for those positions. Wal-Mart had a very successful grand opening and has reported excellent sales in its first quarter of operations.
- The Jerome Chamber of Commerce hired a new part-time economic development specialist in September 2000. The new hire, Bob Richards, is a retired banking and finance professional who came to Jerome as assistant vice-president and manager of Washington Federal Savings and became involved in economic development almost immediately. His position was made possible with a \$10,000 grant from Bechtel BWXT, the joint-venture contractor that runs the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. The Jerome Chamber is raising other money to make this an on-going position.
- Avonmore West, a major Magic Valley Cheese processor, changed its name to Glanbia Foods, Inc. The name reflects the Ireland-based company's heritage and is a combination of the Gaelic words "glan" meaning pure or clear and "bia" meaning foods. The name change took place in February 2000.
- Glanbia, Inc. completed a \$33 million expansion of its cheese processing facility in Gooding. The plant, originally a meat packing facility, was purchased and converted to cheese processing in 1991. Expansions in 1995, 1997, and 2000 have increased barrel capacity by 167 percent to reach the current output of 187 million pounds of American cheese annually. The newly expanded plant is a 170,000 square foot facility located on 40 acres and employs 223 employees including a transportation department. The plant currently processes 4.6 million pounds or 460,000 gallons of milk per day. With expansion, it has the infrastructure to process six million pounds of milk per day. The facility has one of the world's largest single membrane reverse osmosis systems used to concentrate whey and an ultra-filtration system that separates proteins, lactates and minerals from the whey.
- Minneapolis-based Land O'Lakes also completed a large plant expansion in Gooding in 2000. The Gooding plant was built in 1996, but the dairy growth in South Central Idaho made expansion necessary. The expansion had three main parts. First, a rail spur, more than a mile long, was added to handle 100-car trains so the Gooding plant can accommodate entire grain trains from suppliers in the Midwest. To unload the extra grain cars, the company also built two corn storage tanks with a 630,000-bushel total capacity. Secondly, the Gooding plant added another flaking mill to steam grain before it enters the mill's two big rolls. This increased the plant's flaking capacity by 50 percent or 310,000 tons annually. Finally, a new vitamin and mineral-supplement plant was built at the Gooding facility to manufacture the company's BioMetrics brand of feed. The annual capacity of the new BioMetrics plant is 35,000 to 40,000 pounds of supplements.

- The new St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center opened and began accepting patients on November 19, 2000. As a result, the Wood River Medical Center's hospitals in Sun Valley and Hailey closed on the same day and patients were transferred. The new 32-bed facility is located at 100 Hospital Drive, adjacent to Highway 75, about two miles south of Ketchum. In addition to a 24-hour emergency department, St Luke's provides surgery, maternity care, X-ray and MRI imaging, laboratory testing and rehabilitation services. A new urgent care center opened in Hailey on November 19th also, and will be available for minor medical emergencies. South Blaine County residents seeking treatment for minor injuries, infections, or illnesses can visit that clinic, located at 706 S. Main in Hailey.
- A record number of Blaine County voters turned out and approved a \$40 million plant facilities levy that will provide money to build a new high school and a new elementary school, plus several additions and improvements to other school buildings in the district. The measure required 55 percent approval and 58.7 percent of the voters approved the levy. The first class to graduate from the new high school will be the class of 2004.
- In September 2000, Jerome residents approved an \$875,000 supplemental levy to build a 4,500-square foot multi-purpose room, an 1,800-square-foot library and two classrooms at Jefferson Elementary School. These new facilities will ease a critical overcrowding problem at Jefferson Elementary. Construction will start in the spring of 2001 and could be finished in time for the 2001-2002 school year.
- The City of Hailey was granted Gem Community status this past year by the Idaho Department of Commerce. The city passed a resolution to focus on improving the area economy and formed its economic development committee in 1998, and in 1999, a broad-based citizens' group worked for more than a year on a long-term strategic plan for improving Hailey's economy. These efforts resulted in Gem Community status for the city. Idaho's Gem Community program helps cities, counties, towns or tribal nations develop plans with technical assistance from the Department of Commerce.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- Tele-Servicing Innovations, Inc. (TSI), an Idaho Falls-based call center, located a new call center facility in Burley in April 2000. On July 6, 2000, the company opened a permanent location at 759 Overland Avenue in Burley. A cooperative effort between the city of Burley, the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, the Mini-Cassia Development Commission, Bechtel Northwest (INEEL) and the Idaho Departments of Labor and Commerce helped to bring TSI to Burley. Jeff Neiswanger, president of TSI, said that his company had all but signed to bring its operation to Montana when someone suggested they visit the Mini-Cassia area. The friendliness of the people and the good labor force persuaded TSI to locate in Burley. TSI employs approximately 100 workers, and was featured prominently in a June 14, 2000 issue of the *Wall Street Journal* in an article focusing on call centers in rural areas. TSI has since announced plans to locate a new call center in Smelterville in North Idaho, thus helping a troubled economy in that area. The July 6, 2000 Burley ribbon-cutting was attended by Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen, Mini-Cassia Job Service Manager Brent Tolman, Mini-Cassia Job Service Employment Services and Program Supervisor Donna Fletcher, Labor Market Analyst Greg Rogers and a host of other local city and business leaders.
- Mechelle McFarland was hired as the new Economic Development Coordinator for the Mini-Cassia Development Commission. She was hired after the resignation of Todd Christensen in July 2000. Mechelle is a native of the area and served as the interim coordinator after Mr. Christensen left. She has begun her duties as permanent coordinator.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

YEAR IN REVIEW

This newsletter is dedicated to a review of the year 2000. Labor Force numbers are for the twelve-month period from December 1999 to November 2000.

2000 Nonfarm Payroll Employment is estimated through October based on January through June employment and the monthly sampling of businesses. Nonfarm Payroll Employment is then projected through the end of the year using typical monthly links or five-year average changes, and adjusted for area economic activity.

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) unemployment rate dipped six-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent in 2000 from the 1999 rate of 5.2 percent. The area labor force increased 1.5 percent (620 individuals) over the year, climbing from 40,420 in 1999 to 41,040 in 2000. Employment increased at a faster rate than the labor force, 1.8 percent, showing 710 more individuals working during 2000. Because employment grew at a faster rate than the labor force, the unemployment rate fell. This year, most employment increases were because of new businesses opening in the area.

Higher interest rates and increased fuel prices likely held *Nonfarm Payroll Job* growth down in 2000. The Pocatello MSA nonfarm jobs are projected to increase 2.4 percent in 2000. The increase in year 2000 nonfarm jobs was six-tenths of a percentage point below the 1999 increase of 3.0 percent. Businesses, finding it more difficult to hire workers, may also be working fewer people more hours, which would also contribute to slower job growth.

The major difference in nonfarm job growth from 1999 to 2000 was *where* the growth occurred. In 1999 job growth was evenly split between the *Goods-Producing Industries* and the *Service-Producing Industries*. In 2000, despite major commercial construction projects in the MSA, all job growth was in the *Service-Producing Industries*. Leading job growth was *Services*,

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)	Projected 2000	1999	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	41040	40420	1.5%
Unemployment	1870	1960	-4.6%
Percent Unemployed	4.6	5.2	
Total Employment	39170	38460	1.8%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
TOTAL Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	32833	32048	2.4%
<i>Goods Producing Industries</i>	4575	4753	-3.7%
Construction	1678	1878	-10.6%
Manufacturing	2897	2875	0.8%
<i>Service Producing Industries</i>	28258	27295	3.5%
Trans./Comm./Util	1884	1947	-3.2%
Wholesale Trade	1421	1446	-1.7%
Retail Trade	7053	7110	-0.8%
Fin./Ins./Real Estate	1472	1437	2.4%
Services	7860	7041	11.6%
Government Admin.	3441	3401	1.2%
Government Educ.	5127	4914	4.3%

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

mainly because of the nearly 700 employees hired at the new Convergys Customer Support Center in Pocatello. Many of the job losses were because fewer new homes were built and existing home sales lagged this year, affecting jobs in *Construction*, *Wholesale Trade*, and *Retail Trade*.

GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

Jobs in the *Goods-Producing Industries* are projected to decline 3.7 percent in 2000. The projected 200 job losses were in *Construction*. The loss of construction jobs occurred mainly in *Nonresidential Contractors*, which does not coincide with the increase in nonresidential construction in Bannock County. Since nonresidential construction activity in the MSA nearly tripled compared to 1999, the change in the number of jobs may be because of how the jobs were reported. Many contractors who do large commercial construction projects work in various locations throughout the state and do not report the jobs in the county where the work is being done.

Changes in *Manufacturing* were widespread; gains and losses occurred in nearly every section within the industry but the industry is projected to gain about 20 jobs over the year. Because of increases in the number of temporary staffing agencies, some jobs in manufacturing plants may be counted in *Services*, not *Manufacturing*. Therefore, the actual number of jobs in manufacturing plants may have grown at a higher rate.

SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

The *Service-Producing Industries* are projected to grow 3.5 percent in 2000, increasing by 963 jobs. The 2000 growth rate is expected to exceed the 1999 growth rate by five-tenths of a percentage point. Most of the projected growth occurred in *Services*, led by nearly 700 jobs created at the Convergys Customer Support Center in Pocatello.

Transportation, Communications & Utilities is estimated to fall 3.2 percent from 1999. *Transportation* sustained most of the job losses in the industry because *Trucking/Courier Services* consolidated their services regionally and closed terminals. In addition, small independent firms leased their trucks to larger operators eliminating about 20 jobs in the area. *Communications* is projected to increase in 2000. Increases occurred in *Telephone Communications* and *Cable and Pay TV Services*, probably because of increased services offered by the communications industry and changing technology in the industry.

Wholesale Trade is projected to decline 1.7 percent and *Retail Trade* is projected to decline eight-tenths of a percentage point – driving the *Trade Industry* down by more than 80 jobs. Declines in *Wholesale Trade* were in *Construction Materials, Equipment, and Supplies* because of decreases in residential construction. Declines in *Retail Trade* were in *Lumber and Building Materials, Mobile Home Dealers, New and Used Car Dealers*, and *Gas Stations*. Because *Nonfarm Payroll Employment* counts jobs, some of the decreases may be a trend by retail employers to hire fewer part-time and occasional staff.

Job increases are projected in *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE)*, *Services*, and *Government Education*. *Finance, Insurance and Real Estate* increased because credit unions have become more popular as bank mergers change the finance industry and credit unions have begun to offer more services to their customers. *Services* is projected to add nearly 820 jobs because of a new call center opening in the area and higher utilization of staffing services by businesses. Increases in *Government Education* were in *State Education* because of added student employment at Idaho State University.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

In February, tornado's hit the Southeast Idaho area, causing millions of dollars in property damage and knocking out power for up to three days in some areas. Power outages in Bingham County idled hundreds of workers. Southeast Idaho also experienced the worst fire season it has ever had. The fire season started earlier, lasted longer and the fires were much larger than usual. Job growth slowed throughout the entire Southeast Idaho area. Residential construction dipped from its 1999 level, but nonresidential construction kept the economy moving in the right direction. In spite of a slower economy in 2000 than in 1999, many major developments occurred that boosted or at least maintained employment. Several construction projects that began during 2000 will boost employment and spur economic activity in 2001.

Bannock County

- Alta Animal Hospital built a new \$500,000 facility at 1601 South Bannock Highway in Pocatello. The new facility is the second business to locate in the new Greenway Office Park.
- Supreme Muffler moved into their new facility on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Center Street in Pocatello. The business purchased and demolished a run-down former gas station at that location and built a new facility.
- Jack in The Box opened a new restaurant directly across the street from Supreme Muffler on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Center Street in Pocatello. The restaurant replaces an old bank building at that location and added approximately 50 jobs.
- Carpet City opened at the corner of Main and Hayden streets in Old Town Pocatello, accompanying Ridley's Food Store, Convergys, and Flowers by L.D. in improvements to a depressed area.
- A Big 5 sporting goods store opened on Quinn Road in Pocatello. Construction of the 10,000-square foot facility was completed in October and the store opened in November. Big 5 employs approximately 20 workers.
- Walmart converted its department store in Chubbuck to a Superstore. Construction on the 80,000-square foot expansion began last spring and the super store officially opened in October. The expansion added approximately 160 jobs.
- Fred Meyer moved into its new \$19 million super center at 800 Yellowstone Avenue in Pocatello. Construction of the new 165,000-square foot store began last spring and the store opened November 1st. Opening of the super center created approximately 140 new jobs. Tenants in the Fred Meyer complex include Gottschalks, Centrum Hearing, Perfect Look beauty salon, Berrywood Eatery and Juice Bar, and FM Fuel Stop.
- A Subway Sandwich Shop opened in July at 1100 E. Merrill Road in McCammon, adding 12 jobs. This unique Subway also offers fresh donuts, a Noble Roman Pizza Express and breakfast.
- Walgreen is building a new store at the corner of Alameda Road and Yellowstone Avenue in Pocatello. The 12,000-square foot, \$3 million facility will employ approximately 30 workers.
- In April, Don Aslett's Cleaning Center and Varsity Contractors began construction on a new 10,000-square foot facility to house its mail-order business. The \$700,000 facility will free up space at the Cleaning Center on Fifth Avenue for Varsity Contractors and provide for future expansion of the mail-order business.

- Citizens Community Bank began construction of a second full-service branch at 2000 Flandro, in Pocatello. The bank currently operates in a temporary facility at the Flandro location and employs 35 workers.
- Construction began on the Pocatello Professional Plaza. The \$2 million site development, on Buckskin Road, was completed in August and three buildings are under construction now. Tenants expect to move in to the new facility by March 2001.
- Idaho Farm Bureau began construction of their \$10 million facility north of East Center Street in Pocatello. Completion of the 93,600-square foot facility, which includes a two-level parking garage, is expected by November 2001.
- Excavation work is complete and construction has begun on a Home Depot Super Center, near the Pine Ridge Mall, in Chubbuck. The 130,223-square foot center should open during the summer of 2001.
- Pony Express closed operations nationwide and eliminated 22 jobs in Pocatello.

Bear Lake County

A large remodeling and expansion project at Bear Lake High School and residential construction should push the number of *Construction Industry* jobs up in 2000 over 1999. *Retail Trade*, *Services*, and *Government* are expected to increase over the year because of additional jobs at retail stores, medical and dental offices, civil and social associations, and local and federal government. Most of those increases may be offset by decreases in *Wholesale Trade*. Walton Feed decreased employment because the demand for food storage products declined.

- Construction of a \$721,000 addition to Bear Lake High School added construction jobs in Montpelier this year. Completion will add a new weight and wrestling room and provide space to expand.
- The Montpelier business plaza welcomed two new businesses: Bear Lake Family Chiropractic Clinic and Montpelier Fitness Center.
- A to Z Lumber & Components, Incorporated opened in Montpelier, adding two jobs to the area economy. The company sells building materials and installs windows, roofs, and siding.
- Lone Pine Builders opened at 395 North 4th in Montpelier. The business employs two people and provides roofing, siding, remodeling, home additions, cement, and backhoe work.
- A new craft and gift store, Apple Blossom, opened at 850 Washington in Montpelier.

Bingham County

Nonfarm Payroll Employment in Bingham County should

keep pace with last year and increase between one and two percent. Even though construction permits were down in 2000 from 1999, jobs have remained unchanged because projects started in 1999 continued throughout 2000. Because crop growers had an exceptionally good year in terms of crop production, *Manufacturing*, *Transportation*, and *Trade* should experience increased jobs. Most gains should be in *Services* because of increases in healthcare and social services.

- Fairchild Construction renovated their office building at 70 South Spruce Street in Blackfoot, and welcomed Heartland Real Estate.
- Albertson's Food Store in Blackfoot expanded its facility to 42,000-square feet of space. The expansion houses additional services including a pharmacy; meal, snack, and beverage center; baby care center; pet center; floral department; one-hour photo-processing center; an expanded butcher block; and video rental area.
- Walmart expanded their department store into a Superstore, adding a full service grocery center. The 217,000-square foot remodeling and expansion began last spring and was completed in November. Employment increased by approximately 60 workers.
- Bingham Co-op opened their new hi-tech fertilizer warehouse west of Blackfoot. Construction began on the \$3 million facility last June. Through the use of technology, customers can bring a sample of their soil to be tested and a customized fertilizer mix is made specifically for that soil type. The company hired three new employees and anticipates hiring three or four more part-time employees.
- Farm Credit Services built a new facility near their former building at 10 West Judicial, in Blackfoot. The old building has been sold to McDonald Insurance.
- Construction has begun on a new \$1.8 million Super 8 Motel in Blackfoot. The motel will be located behind Albertson's near Bergner Boulevard and will employ approximately 12 people.
- Construction of a new \$2.2 million Shoshone-Bannock Tribes truck stop in Fort Hall is complete. The truck stop is located off Exit 80 next to the Fort Hall Casino.
- Beatrice Foods closed down most of its operations at the Snake River Cheese plant in Blackfoot, eliminating approximately 45 jobs. In November, Suprema Specialties, Inc., of Paterson, New Jersey purchased the facility and its equipment and will begin operating the plant.

Caribou County

In 1999, the county experienced a net loss of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. A large construction project at Agrium/NuWest should drive *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* up in 2000. Between 70 and 100 construction jobs have been added and the multi-

plier effect of those jobs should spur growth in most industries. Expect increases in *Transportation*, *Wholesale Trade*, *Retail Trade*, and *Services*. Despite job losses at Chemical Lime in Bancroft and the closure of Kerr-McGee in Soda Springs, *Manufacturing* should remain at about the same level in 2000 as in 1999.

- Monsanto began a multi-million dollar expansion to add a new ISO loading facility at the plant's location in Soda Springs. Completion is expected in March 2001.
- SunRise Jewelry opened at 81 South Main in Soda Springs.
- Chemical Lime, located in Bancroft, reduced their operation and eliminated 13 jobs. The \$35 million limestone processing plant will retain approximately 6 employees.
- Kerr-McGee closed its vanadium and phosphate plant near Soda Springs, and eliminated approximately 45 jobs. The company was losing too much money because of the price of vanadium.

Franklin County

Construction projects in Franklin County should boost *Nonfarm Payroll* employment during 2000. Preston City's industrial park has landed its first tenant, Bear River Publishing. The county should see growth in almost every industry except *Manufacturing* and *Transportation*, *Communications*, and *Utilities*, which should stay at about the same level as last year. Increases in *Trucking and Courier Services* should offset decreases in *Utilities*. Growth should occur in *Retail Trade* because of an expansion at Stokes Thriftway and opening of new retail businesses. The largest increase will likely be in *Services* spurred by *Agriculture Services*; *Dairy Farms*.

- Pioneer Press chose Preston as the location for a new 35,000-square foot printing plant, Bear River Publishing. Construction of the \$6.5 million plant began in April and should be complete by October 2001. The business will add approximately 50 jobs in Preston.
- McDonald's built a new facility at 195 South State Street in Preston. The business employs approximately 45 people.
- Stokes Thriftway in Preston expanded and remodeled. The project added a new pharmacy, deli, bakery, and the space to locate a bank.
- Leisa's Sandwiches opened on State Street in Preston. The restaurant serves specialty sandwiches, ice cream, and Italian sodas.
- A restaurant serving Mexican food, Los Dos Amigos, opened at 805 South Highway 91 in Preston.

Owners remodeled an existing building at that location to house the restaurant.

Oneida County

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs will likely stay close to the same level in 2000 as in 1999. *Construction* jobs should increase because of the construction of a new church and a new housing development, but closure of Dan's Best-way grocery store in 1999 dropped the number of *Retail Trade* jobs in 2000.

- Construction of a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Malad began last July. Completion of the 24,460-square foot construction project is expected by June 2001.
- Malad's Uptown Mall welcomed two new businesses: The Circuit fitness center and Sweet 'n' Stylin beauty shop.

Power County

Several commercial construction projects throughout the county and expansion at Direct Communications in Rockland should boost *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in 2000 over 1999. An exceptional growing season led to fewer jobs in *Agriculture Services* mostly because growers did not have to fight late blight this year.

- Construction began on the new American Falls High School. The \$14 million school is being built south of American Falls on the frontage road. Completion of the school is expected by May 2002.
- Direct Communications moved into their new facility on Main Street in Rockland. The facility houses Direct Communications' telephone, Internet, and call center. The center employs 69 workers and provides service to 17 companies.
- AMS, Inc. of American Falls expanded its GSSI (manufacturing of PowerProbe Direct Push Units and Well Management Systems), engineering and draft operations. The company purchased the old Power County District Highway building on Van Buren Street and remodeled it for their operation.
- Construction of a new \$315,000 Power County Highway District building on Ted Neu Loop, near American Falls, was completed in July. The facility provides more shop space for the county and additional offices.

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The average unemployment rate for December 1999 to November 2000 for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) is 3.4 percent, down seven-tenths of a percentage point from the 1999 average of 4.1 percent. The *Civilian Labor Force* showed an increase of almost 3,000 over the year, with total employment increasing by over 3,300, therefore dropping the unemployment rate. Since the Census Bureau projects a population increase of almost 1,100 during this time period, the increase most probably came from new teenage entrants and more women entering the workforce. In addition, retirees could have accounted for part of the rise, since Social Security no longer places a limitation on their earnings for benefit eligibility.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs showed an increase of 2,080 jobs over the year, over 1,800 coming from the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Services* and *Government Administration* received the largest increases collectively at just fewer than 1,000 jobs. *Retail Trade* came in a close third, adding 360 jobs to the LMA. *Business Services*, *Social Services*, and *Engineering & Management* sectors were the largest contributors to the increase in *Services*. The LMA, especially Bonneville County, has seen an influx of new businesses as the Ammon area opened and expanded after the construction of Edwards Cinemas. The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) has enjoyed steady, progressive growth since the new contractor, Bechtel BWXT, Idaho, took over in late 1999. The *Goods-Producing Industries* showed a slight increase of 210 jobs, almost all coming from the *Construction* industry. Plentiful resi-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson Counties	Projected 2000	1999	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	83,353	80,500	3.5
Unemployed	2,856	3,321	-14.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4%	4.1%	
Total Employment	80,497	77,179	4.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	61,870	59,790	3.5
Goods-Producing Industries	9,230	9,020	2.3
Mining & Construction	4,020	3,830	5.0
Manufacturing	5,210	5,190	0.4
Food Processing	2,810	2,850	-1.4
Industrial and Commercial Mach.	540	500	8.0
All Other Manufacturing	1,860	1,840	1.1
Service-Producing Industries	52,640	50,770	3.7
Transportation & Communication	2,340	2,060	13.6
Wholesale Trade	6,070	5,910	2.7
Retail Trade	11,510	11,150	3.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,870	1,860	0.5
Services	20,780	20,190	2.9
Government Administration	4,920	4,520	8.8
Government Education	5,150	5,080	1.4
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month			

dential and commercial construction has kept the industry busy and continued development is still visible in the area.

The only decrease in the area was found in the *Food Processing* sector of the *Manufacturing* industry, showing a decrease of 40 jobs for the year. Installation of new technology and low commodity prices eliminated the need for some workers.

2000 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

As a whole, the year has been reflective of the national trend of a secure and growing economy. Unemployment rates have decreased and jobs have been plentiful. The Bonneville LMA has seen much growth in the retail industry, at least as far as new entrants; though this has stretched the employment numbers thinner in all existing retail and some smaller retailers have now gone out of business. Restaurants, department and specialty stores, and cinemas have received most of the retail changes this year. Bechtel BWXT, Idaho has helped job creation, as they vowed to assist the state in economic development. Many local businesses have been grateful recipients of its generosity. The following overview of the counties shows happenings for the year 2000.

Bonneville County

- The O.E.Bell building, once a junior high school that sat vacant for the last 20 years, went under major renovation estimated at \$2.5 million. It now houses the Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council, Bank of Idaho, Attorney E.W. Pike, Little Deli, and other businesses. A location or “home away from home” has been approved in the building for the Department of Commerce to use as necessary when in the area. The building is still under renovation and the former style has been maintained for its unique grandeur. Located close to downtown Idaho Falls, it is still centrally located in the town and has been a help to many businesses needing expansion.
- Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, the only hospital in Idaho Falls, expanded its facility (a \$42 million project) to include a larger emergency room. It also added footage to many of the other units, a total of 70,000 square feet. The hospital services Blackfoot and the northeastern part of the state in addition to the Idaho Falls area.
- With the entrance of Edwards Cinemas, most of the local theatres have closed doors or reduced ticket prices. Edwards boasts 14 screens and opened in the Ammon area in 1999. Since that time, the area developed very quickly, bringing in new stores such as Ameritel Inn, International House of Pancakes, Johnny Carino’s, Gameworld, Cubby’s, Wingers, Texas Roadhouse Grill, Sportsman Warehouse, Famous Footwear, Fox Den, Typhoons, Denver Mattress Company, and Taco Bell—to name a few.
- The Gap and Old Navy opened across the street from Edwards in the Grand Teton Mall. ZCMI was purchased by May Company and is still located in the Grand Teton Mall. Pacific Sunwear, Chinese Gourmet Express, and Coachman’s Gifts are new entrants into the mall. However, many shops have left the mall due to rising costs and the food court has seen much turnover this year.
- A Student Union Building of 40,000 square feet was added to University Place, giving students a place to study and eat, and adding a bookstore and drop-in computer lab. A separate preschool and child-care program with limited enrollment was added to accommodate students and staff. University Place offers classes from Idaho State University, University of Idaho, Ricks College, and Brigham Young University. It services many stu-

dents in the area who are unable to attend the classes on campus.

- Several business centers are being revitalized or will begin construction. The St. Leon Business Park made improvements of an estimated \$1.1 million, which helped some businesses to expand and added several new companies. Dane Watkins is in the middle of doing a complete makeover to his development on River Parkway, involving several businesses. A Victorian look will be the new style and parking will be better as utilities are being buried underground. The Skyline Mall made renovations in several stores, expanding sales floors in several businesses. The Teton Plaza and Hall Park remodeled the storefronts, displaying similar design for their set of stores. Taylor Crossing on the River (of McNeil Development) will start construction of a Georgian village between the river and Utah Avenue early spring of 2001. Clearing of current residences and businesses on the river has almost been completed for starting the development.
- Expansion of existing retail businesses and the construction of new buildings in new locations have made way for other businesses to move and change. For example, Chaffin RV is now located on Holmes Avenue, Madsen’s Ben Franklin is on West Broadway, and Hertz Car Sales is located on Lincoln and Woodruff.
- Center Partners housed a new building located just past their existing building. Hundreds of new call center workers were put to work and continued progression of contracts keeps the company hiring to fill its needs. Center Partners now has over 400 employees. The call centers have played a major role in decreasing the unemployment rate in the LMA over the year.

Bingham County

- The Snake River Cheese Plant will now be operating under the name of Suprema Specialties at the former Beatrice Cheese location. The new company specializes in Italian cheeses and sells to food service distributors such as SYSCO. This will help local dairymen and laid-off cheese workers in the area. The company has also been the biggest industrial user of water and sewage systems.
- Blackfoot’s Wal-Mart is now a Supercenter. Renovation of the building doubled its size and doubled its employees. The store now employs over 330 people. The store added a deli, meat counter and

bakery, hair salon, bank, and optical center to create one-stop shopping for customers.

**Butte, Clark, Jefferson, Fremont,
and Teton Counties**

- Butte County's Bechtel BWXT, Idaho, the INEEL's main contractor and the LMA's largest employer, has been a great presence since the beginning of its operation late in 1999. Bechtel has mapped out the next three years of goals and objectives, including an intense study of improving the ability to predict how underground pollution moves. Nuclear shipments are leaving the state on a regular basis, safety statistics are improving, and the laboratory now has a more focused direction and investment in the community. Research is being directed towards energy, science, environmental cleanup, and national security. Over \$1.7 million has been invested into corporate-funded research at the INEEL. Also, \$1.4 million was invested in economic development activities across the state.
- Arco (Butte County) received funds to start the construction of a one-mile greenbelt along Highway 20/26. A sail from a decommissioned nuclear submarine will be displayed in front of the future museum that will sit near the greenbelt. The sail already sits close to the site to which it will soon be moved.
- The Arco/Butte Business Incubation Center is helping many businesses expand or start up in Butte County. Such stores as Cowboy Leather have moved in and are doing so well that they will soon need to expand their locations.
- Fremont County's ML Technologies opened mid-year, adding many jobs to the community. ML Technologies is a high-tech company specializing in information technology services, engineering services, and computer products.
- FairPoint Communications merged with Fremont Telcom (Fremont County) late this year. The merger was to bring communication customers the latest technology and high quality services, starting with businesses. However, the main headquarters just closed this location
- The Ashton Travel Plaza (Fremont County) changed to Valley Food and Fuel, and added a sit-down café for residents and travelers. Many other stores in the area and surrounding counties have changed ownership or started up new. Dave's Arctic in Driggs (Teton County) is now the Racine' Sta-

tion, expanding merchandise lines in snow and motorcycle equipment. Dragonfly Toys changed names to Dot Toys & Children's Apparel and added a line of children's clothing. Jackson Hole Heating and Sheet Metal opened a shop in Victor (Teton County) for HVAC and sheet metal fabrication.

- Jefferson County's T&M Potato expanded its operation by moving to a new location next to Rigby Produce. T&M plans to add 175 new jobs to the business over the next five years. It sells pre-baked potatoes in grocery and department stores.

Madison County

- A change to Ricks College was announced in June. The college will soon be Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-Idaho) and is undergoing the proper procedure for status change right now. Students will soon be able to get a four-year baccalaureate degree at the college; integrated and specialized degrees will be gradually added at specified time frames over the next five years. The college will also incorporate internships and off-campus workstudy programs to be part of required degree curriculums. The college hopes to be established as BYU-Idaho by fall 2001. The college plans to gradually increase the current 8,900 students to the potential capacity of 15,000 over the next five years.
- With the announcement of the college status change, many businesses and residents have been interested in new prospects. A large Idaho Falls company, Melaleuca, Inc., purchased the vacant Broulims store that sat empty for two years, and is now renovating it for expansion of its Idaho Falls business. It hopes to house 200 product support specialists over the year 2001. The company sells health and beauty aide products worldwide. Melaleuca is training its staff for the Rexburg location right now and plans to have them working by January.
- The Madison Economic Development Council has been busy planning the Rexburg Business Center. The city is currently negotiating a contract with a California manufacturer of medical testing systems that plans to put on 500 employees in the first year. Property in the business center has been donated as an incentive for the company to locate in Rexburg. Just behind the business center, Artco, one of Rexburg's largest employers, added a Personal Touch line earlier in the year. The line added

200 employees to the business and specializes in personalized paper goods and gift items.

Custer and Lemhi Counties

- From the fall of 1999 to October of this year, mining operations have been on the decline in these two counties. Meridians Gold's Beartrack Mine stopped operations late 1999 through early 2000, and now employs a skeleton clean-up crew, contributing to the loss of many jobs in the county. Thompson Creek Mine just recently laid-off around 40 workers in October and will continue to gradually lay off workers over the next few years as the mine will eventually be shut down. These mineworkers were accustomed to higher paying jobs with benefits. Some worked for the government when the area experienced larger-than-normal fires during the summer and fall months. Some have been able to move to other mine locations to continue working for the same company that laid them off.
- Salmon, with the help of Bechtel BWXT, Idaho, now has an Economic Developer. Pete Stasiak has been fully involved with the needs of the city and is currently involved in creation of an incubator center that would help entrepreneurs and those needing expansion to have a place to house their business. He is also conducting impact studies on Lemhi County as a result of the fires and has determined that a majority of the businesses were deeply hurt by the disaster.
- Both counties are preparing for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial that will take place in 2003. Because of well-known publicity of the event, many tourists are planning visits before the anticipated date. A Lewis and Clark Information Center was erected in the Burger King parking lot this summer. The state is now involved in upgrading roads, expanding and improving historical sites, museums and visitors centers, and promoting various bicentennial events and projects. Salmon is also planning a Sacajawea Interpretive Center since Salmon and Orofino will be the most visited areas in the celebration.
- Salmon also received several new businesses. A new department store named Duckwall-ALCO Stores, Inc. started this summer with 25 employees, and Idaho Falls' TSI added a call center near the airport with six employees and room for another ten to twenty.

General Northeast Idaho

- The Census employed many people this year throughout the area with Idaho Falls being the central office for Southeast Idaho. Hiring and training took place in the Idaho Falls Job Service office along with several other sites in outlying areas. The Census saw higher responses than it had seen in past surveys.
- Drought brought unwanted results in several areas including Butte and Custer Counties, and they became some of the first to be declared drought disaster areas. Dryness caused poor yields in dryfarm crops and took a toll on the area's wheat harvest.
- Wildfires ripped through Idaho this year, causing major damage to wilderness and economies. The Salmon-Challis Fire District battled over 439,000 acres of wildfires before full containment was reached. That was 34.3 percent of all Idaho fires this year. The Idaho Falls Fire District battled almost the same acreage at over 414,000 acres (32.3 percent of all Idaho fires). In total, 66.6 percent of all Idaho fires took place in the Eastern to Northeast Idaho areas—over 216,000 acres alone in one of the nation's largest fires, the Clear Creek Complex fire (Lemhi and Custer counties). The fires required the help of smoke jumpers, helicopter pilots, military personnel, and firefighters from other countries. Additional federal workers were also put to work as security personnel, heavy equipment operators, and supply runners. Repercussions of the fires included cancellation of annual events such as Sacajawea Days (the first scheduled for the area), and Salmon's Balloon Fest; FEMA allowances in many counties; and financial damage to businesses. The major areas of impact included hunting and fishing guides and tourism sectors. Many other businesses were hurt as people were advised to stay out of the smoke and away from the fire crews. Road closures also hurt many who commuted to work or traveled through the area on a regular basis.

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Labor Force Tables

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 1999 & 2000

	2000*	1999	Percent Change from 1999
ADA COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	173,201	166,713	3.9
Unemployment	4,743	5,424	-12.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	3.3	
Employment	168,458	161,288	4.4
ADAMS COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	1,584	1,639	-3.4
Unemployment	196	245	-20.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	12.4	14.9	
Employment	1,388	1,394	-0.4
POCATELLO MSA (BANNOCK COUNTY)			
Civilian Labor Force	41,039	40,279	1.9
Unemployment	1,868	2,086	-10.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	5.2	
Employment	39,171	38,193	2.6
BEAR LAKE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	3,091	3,038	1.8
Unemployment	157	137	14.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	4.5	
Employment	2,934	2,901	1.2
BENEWAH COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	4,615	4,578	0.8
Unemployment	518	566	-8.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.2	12.4	
Employment	4,096	4,012	2.1
BINGHAM COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	22,922	22,125	3.6
Unemployment	951	1,114	-14.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	5.0	
Employment	21,971	21,011	4.6
BLAINE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	11,394	11,047	3.1
Unemployment	351	418	-16.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.8	
Employment	11,044	10,629	3.9

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 1999 & 2000

	2000*	1999	Percent Change from 1999
BOISE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	2,360	2,596	-9.1
Unemployment	157	190	-17.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.6	7.3	
Employment	2,203	2,406	-8.4
BONNER COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	17,641	17,533	0.6
Unemployment	1,451	1,676	-13.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.2	9.6	
Employment	16,190	15,857	2.1
BONNEVILLE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	48,553	46,706	4.0
Unemployment	1,476	1,688	-12.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.6	
Employment	47,076	45,018	4.6
BOUNDARY COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	4,552	4,523	0.6
Unemployment	357	414	-13.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	9.2	
Employment	4,195	4,108	2.1
BUTTE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	1,694	1,630	3.9
Unemployment	55	64	-13.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.9	
Employment	1,639	1,567	4.6
CAMAS COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	422	425	-0.7
Unemployment	15	18	-18.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	4.2	
Employment	407	407	0.1
CANYON COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	65,737	63,371	3.7
Unemployment	2,745	3,061	-10.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.8	
Employment	62,992	60,310	4.4

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 1999 & 2000

	2000*	1999	Percent Change from 1999
CARIBOU COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	3,110	3,134	-0.8
Unemployment	170	189	-10.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	6.0	
Employment	2,940	2,946	-0.2
CASSIA COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	9,644	9,537	1.1
Unemployment	560	654	-14.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	6.9	
Employment	9,084	8,883	2.3
CLARK COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	570	560	1.9
Unemployment	25	19	30.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	3.5	
Employment	545	540	0.8
CLEARWATER COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	4,065	4,104	-1.0
Unemployment	509	554	-8.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	12.5	13.5	
Employment	3,556	3,550	0.2
CUSTER COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	1,957	2,000	-2.1
Unemployment	135	164	-17.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.9	8.2	
Employment	1,822	1,836	-0.8
ELMORE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	9,277	9,267	0.1
Unemployment	522	604	-13.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	6.5	
Employment	8,755	8,663	1.1
FRANKLIN COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	4,764	4,619	3.1
Unemployment	166	163	1.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.5	
Employment	4,598	4,455	3.2
FREMONT COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	4,798	4,844	-0.9
Unemployment	306	333	-8.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.4	6.9	
Employment	4,493	4,511	-0.4
GEM COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	6,323	6,303	0.3
Unemployment	344	436	-20.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.4	6.9	
Employment	5,979	5,868	1.9

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 1999 & 2000

	2000*	1999	Percent Change from 1999
GOODING COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	6,774	6,629	2.2
Unemployment	227	239	-5.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.6	
Employment	6,547	6,390	2.5
IDAHO COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	6,195	6,282	-1.4
Unemployment	587	678	-13.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.5	10.8	
Employment	5,608	5,604	0.1
JEFFERSON COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	10,399	10,039	3.6
Unemployment	377	455	-17.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	4.5	
Employment	10,022	9,584	4.6
JEROME COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	9,142	8,971	1.9
Unemployment	366	406	-9.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.5	
Employment	8,776	8,566	2.5
KOOTENAI COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	56,025	55,639	0.7
Unemployment	3,792	4,481	-15.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	8.1	
Employment	52,233	51,158	2.1
LATAH COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	15,198	14,986	1.4
Unemployment	476	492	-3.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.3	
Employment	14,722	14,495	1.6
LEMHI COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	3,822	3,930	-2.7
Unemployment	305	311	-2.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.0	7.9	
Employment	3,517	3,618	-2.8
LEWIS COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	1,568	1,560	0.5
Unemployment	111	104	6.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.1	6.7	
Employment	1,457	1,456	0.1
LINCOLN COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	1,928	1,919	0.5
Unemployment	85	103	-17.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	5.4	
Employment	1,843	1,816	1.5

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 1999 & 2000

	2000*	1999	Percent Change from 1999
MADISON COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	11,227	10,539	6.5
Unemployment	255	269	-5.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.6	
Employment	10,971	10,270	6.8
MINIDOKA COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	9,878	9,746	1.4
Unemployment	670	742	-9.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	7.6	
Employment	9,208	9,004	2.3
NEZ PERCE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	22,812	23,485	-2.9
Unemployment	857	925	-7.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.9	
Employment	21,956	22,560	-2.7
ONEIDA COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	1,667	1,654	0.7
Unemployment	56	67	-16.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	4.1	
Employment	1,610	1,587	1.5
OWYHEE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	4,398	4,460	-1.4
Unemployment	170	193	-12.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	4.3	
Employment	4,229	4,267	-0.9
PAYETTE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	10,406	10,390	0.2
Unemployment	724	760	-4.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	7.3	
Employment	9,682	9,630	0.5
POWER COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	3,533	3,514	0.5
Unemployment	227	252	-10.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.4	7.2	
Employment	3,307	3,262	1.4
SHOSHONE COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	6,862	6,835	0.4
Unemployment	669	770	-13.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.7	11.3	
Employment	6,193	6,066	2.1
TETON COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	3,325	3,114	6.8
Unemployment	97	110	-12.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	3.5	
Employment	3,228	3,004	7.5

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 1999 & 2000

	2000*	1999	Percent Change from 1999
TWIN FALLS COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	32,754	32,252	1.6
Unemployment	1,317	1,567	-16.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.9	
Employment	31,437	30,685	2.5
VALLEY COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	3,975	4,022	-1.2
Unemployment	293	381	-23.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	9.5	
Employment	3,682	3,641	1.1
WASHINGTON COUNTY			
Civilian Labor Force	4,777	4,738	0.8
Unemployment	406	390	4.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.5	8.2	
Employment	4,371	4,347	0.5
ASOTIN COUNTY WASHINGTON			
Civilian Labor Force	11,824	11,971	-1.2
Unemployment	466	412	13.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.4	
Employment	11,357	11,559	-1.7
PANHANDLE LMA			
Civilian Labor Force	89,695	89,108	0.7
Unemployment	6,787	7,908	-14.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.6	8.9	
Employment	82,908	81,201	2.1
SEAPORT LMA			
Civilian Labor Force	34,636	35,456	-2.3
Unemployment	1,323	1,337	-1.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.8	
Employment	33,313	34,119	-2.4
IDAHO-LEWIS LMA			
Civilian Labor Force	7,763	7,842	-1.0
Unemployment	698	782	-10.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.0	10.0	
Employment	7,066	7,060	0.1
BOISE MSA			
Civilian Labor Force	238,938	230,084	3.8
Unemployment	7,488	8,485	-11.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.7	
Employment	231,450	221,599	4.4
MAGIC VALLEY LMA			
Civilian Labor Force	48,669	47,852	1.7
Unemployment	1,909	2,211	-13.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	4.6	
Employment	46,760	45,641	2.5

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 1999 & 2000

	2000*	1999	Percent Change from 1999
CASSIA-MINIDOKA LMA			
Civilian Labor Force	19,522	19,283	1.2
Unemployment	1,231	1,397	-11.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.3	7.2	
Employment	18,292	17,887	2.3
Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Jefferson LMA			
Civilian Labor Force	83,567	80,500	3.8
Unemployment	2,859	3,321	-13.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	4.1	
Employment	80,708	77,179	4.6
IDAHO CITIES			
BOISE			
Civilian Labor Force	109,628	105,515	3.9
Unemployment	2,969	3,396	-12.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	3.2	
Employment	106,659	102,119	4.4
COEUR D' ALENE			
Civilian Labor Force	19,810	19,609	1.0
Unemployment	1,027	1,213	-15.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	6.2	
Employment	18,783	18,396	2.1
IDAHO FALLS			
Civilian Labor Force	29,979	28,846	3.9
Unemployment	951	1,088	-12.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.8	
Employment	29,027	27,758	4.6
LEWISTON			
Civilian Labor Force	19,474	20,043	-2.8
Unemployment	640	691	-7.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.4	
Employment	18,834	19,352	-2.7
NAMPA			
Civilian Labor Force	20,074	19,362	3.7
Unemployment	902	1,006	-10.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	5.2	
Employment	19,172	18,356	4.4
POCATELLO			
Civilian Labor Force	29,385	28,838	1.9
Unemployment	1,317	1,470	-10.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	5.1	
Employment	28,069	27,368	2.6
TWIN FALLS			
Civilian Labor Force	17,131	16,876	1.5
Unemployment	722	860	-16.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	5.1	
Employment	16,408	16,016	2.5

FYI TABLE 2: NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT - PLACE OF WORK - STATE OF IDAHO

	October 2000	September 2000	October 1999	Percent Change from Last Month	Percent Change from Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	570,200	570,600	556,000	-0.1	2.6
Goods-Producing Industries	120,000	120,300	119,900	-0.2	0.1
Mining	2,500	2,600	2,600	-3.8	-3.8
Metal Mining	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
Construction	41,500	41,800	39,100	-0.7	6.1
Manufacturing	76,000	75,900	78,200	0.1	-2.8
Durable Goods	46,600	46,800	47,800	-0.4	-2.5
Lumber & Wood Products	11,700	11,800	13,900	-0.8	-15.8
Logging	2,200	2,200	2,800	0.0	-21.4
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,100	4,100	4,800	0.0	-14.6
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,300	1,300	1,600	0.0	-18.8
Other Lumber & Wood Products	4,100	4,200	4,700	-2.4	-12.8
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,600	1,600	1,500	0.0	6.7
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	3,100	3,100	3,100	0.0	0.0
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	10,500	10,500	10,400	0.0	1.0
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	13,900	13,900	12,800	0.0	8.6
Transportation Equipment	2,000	2,000	2,500	0.0	-20.0
Other Durable Goods	3,800	3,900	3,600	-2.6	5.6
Nondurable Goods	29,400	29,100	30,400	1.0	-3.3
Food Processing	17,500	17,200	18,500	1.7	-5.4
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,700	9,900	10,600	-2.0	-8.5
Paper Products	2,200	2,300	2,300	-4.3	-4.3
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,500	5,400	5,100	1.9	7.8
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0	-4.3
Other Nondurable Goods	2,000	2,000	2,200	0.0	-9.1
Service-Producing Industries	450,200	450,300	436,100	0.0	3.2
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	28,100	28,100	27,500	0.0	2.2
Transportation	18,000	17,900	17,500	0.6	2.9
Railroad	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	10,300	10,200	10,300	1.0	0.0
Communications	6,200	6,200	6,000	0.0	3.3
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	3,900	4,000	4,000	-2.5	-2.5
Trade	142,700	142,500	138,000	0.1	3.4
Wholesale Trade	33,300	33,100	32,700	0.6	1.8
Durable Goods	14,900	14,900	14,800	0.0	0.7
Nondurable Goods	18,400	18,200	17,900	1.1	2.8

(CONT.) FYI TABLE 2: NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT - PLACE OF WORK - STATE OF IDAHO

	October 2000	September 2000	October 1999	Percent Change from Last Month	Percent Change from Last Year
Retail Trade	109,400	109,400	105,300	0.0	3.9
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,900	6,900	6,600	0.0	4.5
General Merchandise Stores	13,000	12,600	11,400	3.2	14.0
Food Stores	20,500	20,500	19,800	0.0	3.5
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,500	12,600	12,200	-0.8	2.5
Eating & Drinking Places	37,500	37,900	36,100	-1.1	3.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	23,600	23,600	23,600	0.0	0.0
Banking	7,600	7,600	7,300	0.0	4.1
Services	144,200	146,800	137,000	-1.8	5.3
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	8,500	9,400	8,000	-9.6	6.3
Personal Services	4,200	4,300	4,200	-2.3	0.0
Business Services	29,900	30,000	26,600	-0.3	12.4
Amusement and Recreation Services	5,800	6,900	5,900	-15.9	-1.7
Health Services	35,800	36,100	34,900	-0.8	2.6
Hospitals	11,600	11,800	11,200	-1.7	3.6
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	1,800	17,900	17,300	-89.9	-89.6
Government	111,600	109,300	110,000	2.1	1.5
Federal Government	13,600	14,200	12,800	-4.2	6.3
State & Local Government	98,000	95,100	97,200	3.0	0.8
State Government	28,300	27,700	30,300	2.2	-6.6
Education	14,300	13,400	16,100	6.7	-11.2
Administration	14,000	14,300	14,200	-2.1	-1.4
Local Government	69,700	67,400	66,900	3.4	4.2
Education	40,100	36,900	37,500	8.7	6.9
Administration	29,600	30,500	29,400	-3.0	0.7

1-Preliminary Estimate

2-Estimates include all full- or part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

Data prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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FYI Table 3: State Economic Indicators

IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾	October 2000	September 2000	October 1999	% Change from Last Month	% Change from Last Year
Civilian Labor Force- <i>adjusted</i>	675,900	676,500	658,600	-0.1	2.6
Unemployment	31,700	31,100	31,900	1.9	-0.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.6	4.8		
Total Employment	644,200	645,400	626,700	-0.2	2.8
Civilian Labor Force- <i>unadjusted</i>	677,000	678,800	659,800	-0.3	2.6
Unemployment	25,700	25,200	25,900	2.0	-0.8
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.7	3.9		
Total Employment	651,300	653,600	633,900	-0.4	2.7
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾	3.9	3.9	4.1		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	170.6	170.4	165.0	0.1	3.4
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	174.0	173.7	168.2	0.2	3.4
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	41,920	40,030	42,550	4.7	-1.5
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	740	680		8.8	-1.3
			750		
Hired Workers	32,170	30,340	32,790	6.0	-1.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	13,043	7,120	11,044	83.2	18.1
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	45,201	33,495	46,198	34.9	-2.2
Benefit Payment Activities ⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	35,352	26,474	36,785	33.5	-3.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid	7,068,402	5,280,221	6,878,657	33.9	2.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$199.94	\$199.45	\$187.00	0.2	6.9
Covered Employers	39,016	38,954	37,934	0.2	2.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$105,374,570	\$105,184,825	\$108,186,470	0.2	-2.6

(1) Preliminary Estimate, (2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, (4) Includes: All Entitlements/Programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent
(5) Includes: All Entitlements/Programs, Total Liable Activities

HOURS AND EARNINGS TRENDS	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99
Mining	\$611.12	\$635.19	\$596.56	40.1	41.3	42.1	\$15.24	\$15.38	\$14.17
Construction	\$697.47	\$712.69	\$626.01	41.1	41.8	38.5	\$16.97	\$17.05	\$16.26
Total Manufacturing	\$574.46	\$549.50	\$541.94	39.7	38.4	39.5	\$14.47	\$14.31	\$13.72
Lumber & Wood Products	\$503.23	\$497.70	\$492.26	36.1	35.0	38.7	\$13.94	\$14.22	\$12.72
Food & Kindred Products	\$494.07	\$460.25	\$457.54	40.9	38.1	40.1	\$12.08	\$12.08	\$11.41
Communications	\$745.18	\$720.78	\$743.50	46.4	42.2	41.1	\$16.06	\$17.08	\$18.09
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$912.87	\$915.94	\$770.13	40.5	40.6	38.7	\$22.54	\$22.56	\$19.90
Trade	\$326.00	\$319.59	\$311.46	30.9	30.7	29.3	\$10.55	\$10.41	\$10.63
Wholesale Trade	\$531.15	\$524.69	\$521.95	40.3	40.8	36.5	\$13.18	\$12.86	\$14.30
Retail Trade	\$267.34	\$263.10	\$250.51	28.2	27.9	27.2	\$9.48	\$9.43	\$9.21

*These earnings are computed on a gross basis, and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wages. (Data prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Panhandle Table: Labor Force & Employment

	Nov. 2000	Oct. 2000	Nov. 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	90,790	92,580	88,620	-1.9	4.5
Unemployed	7,670	7,830	6,880	-2.0	13.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.5%	8.5%	7.8%		
Total Employment	83,120	84,750	81,740	-1.9	3.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	89,930	91,660	87,940	-1.9	4.2
Unemployed	6,080	5,680	5,430	7.0	4.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8%	6.2%	6.2%		
Total Employment	83,850	85,980	82,510	-2.5	4.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	15,170	15,390	15,440	-1.4	-1.7
Mining	990	990	1,040	0.0	-4.8
Construction	5,400	5,460	5,330	-1.1	1.3
Manufacturing	8,780	8,940	9,070	-1.8	-3.2
Lumber & Wood Products	4,130	4,200	4,710	-1.7	-12.3
All Other Manufacturing	4,650	4,740	4,360	-1.9	6.7
Service-Producing Industries	53,250	53,800	51,410	-1.0	3.6
Transportation	1,540	1,540	1,580	0.0	-2.5
Communication & Utilities	1,040	1,050	1,030	-1.0	1.0
Wholesale Trade	2,330	2,350	2,220	-0.9	5.0
Retail Trade	15,630	15,650	15,360	-0.1	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,510	2,540	2,500	-1.2	0.4
Service & Miscellaneous	16,830	17,470	15,810	-3.7	6.5
Government Administration	7,890	8,020	7,680	-1.6	2.7
Government Education	5,480	5,180	5,230	5.8	4.8

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Seaport Table: Labor Force & Employment

	Nov. 2000	Oct. 2000	Nov. 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington					
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	33,890	34,580	34,640	-2.0	-2.2
Unemployment	1,640	1,810	1,050	-9.4	56.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8%	5.2%	3.0%		
Total Employment	32,250	32,770	33,590	-1.6	-4.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	33,640	34,150	34,500	-1.5	-2.5
Unemployment	1,370	1,340	880	2.2	55.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1%	3.9%	2.6%		
Total Employment	32,270	32,810	33,620	-1.6	-4.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	4,840	4,880	5,540	-0.8	-12.6
Mining & Construction	1,090	1,150	1,430	-5.2	-23.8
Manufacturing	3,750	3,730	4,110	0.5	-8.8
Food Processing	70	70	140	0.0	-50.0
Lumber & Wood Products	720	720	770	0.0	-6.5
Paper Products	1,730	1,740	1,820	-0.6	-4.9
All Other Manufacturing	1,230	1,200	1,380	2.5	-10.9
Service-Producing Industries	20,190	19,970	20,780	1.1	-2.8
Transportation	1,330	1,340	1,350	-0.7	-1.5
Communications & Utilities	260	260	270	0.0	-3.7
Wholesale Trade	1,060	1,100	1,050	-3.6	1.0
Retail Trade	5,250	5,180	5,410	1.4	-3.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,340	1,360	1,440	-1.5	-6.9
Services	6,760	6,830	6,990	-1.0	-3.3
Government Administration	1,790	1,810	1,780	-1.1	0.6
Government Education	2,400	2,090	2,490	14.8	-3.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Treasure Valley Table: Labor Force & Employment

	Nov. 2000*	Oct. 2000	Nov. 1999	% Change	
Boise MSA (Ada and Canyon counties)				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	242,400	244,600	232,200	-0.9	4.4
Unemployment	7,800	7,600	7,400	2.6	5.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.1	3.2		
Total Employment	234,600	237,000	224,800	-1.0	4.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	241,400	242,300	234,800	-0.4	2.8
Unemployment	6,800	6,600	7,500	3.0	-9.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	2.7	3.2		
Total Employment	234,600	235,700	227,300	-0.5	3.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	224,300	222,900	216,300	0.6	3.7
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	54,200	53,900	53,000	0.6	2.3
Mining & Construction	17,100	17,000	16,100	0.6	6.2
Manufacturing	37,100	36,900	36,900	0.5	0.5
Durable Goods	28,400	28,300	28,000	0.4	1.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,400	3,400	3,800	0.0	-10.5
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	900	1,000	1,200	-10.0	-25.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,400	2,600	4.2	-3.8
Fabricated Metal Products	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,200	8,200	8,100	0.0	1.2
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,800	11,600	11,000	1.7	7.3
Transportation Equipment	1,600	1,600	1,900	0.0	-15.8
Other Durable Goods	2,000	2,100	1,900	-4.8	5.3
Nondurable Goods	8,700	8,600	8,900	1.2	-2.2
Food Products	5,800	5,700	6,200	1.8	-6.5
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	800	0.0	12.5
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	170,100	169,000	163,300	0.7	4.2
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	11,500	11,500	11,300	0.0	1.8
Transportation	6,600	6,600	6,600	0.0	0.0
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	4,900	4,900	4,700	0.0	4.3
Trade	55,300	55,600	52,400	-0.5	5.5
Wholesale Trade	13,300	13,400	13,000	-0.7	2.3
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,500	0.0	2.7
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,700	5,500	-1.8	1.8
Retail Trade	42,000	42,200	39,400	-0.5	6.6
General Merchandise Stores	5,300	5,100	4,200	3.9	26.2
Foods Stores	8,200	8,200	7,700	0.0	6.5
Eating & Drinking Places	14,600	15,100	13,800	-3.3	5.8
Other Retail Trade	13,900	13,800	13,700	0.7	1.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,600	11,600	11,400	0.0	1.8
Services	58,700	58,500	55,300	0.3	6.1
Business Services	14,500	14,400	13,700	0.7	5.8
Health Services	16,200	16,400	15,400	-1.2	5.2
Hospitals	7,500	7,600	7,000	-1.3	7.1
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,500	4,400	4,000	2.3	12.5
Other Services	23,500	23,300	22,200	0.9	5.9
Government	33,000	31,800	32,900	3.8	0.3
Federal Government	4,000	4,000	4,900	0.0	-18.4
State Government	12,100	11,900	11,900	1.7	1.7
Education	4,600	4,200	4,200	9.5	9.5
Administration	7,500	7,700	7,700	-2.6	-2.6
Local Government	16,900	15,900	16,100	6.3	5.0
Education	11,100	10,100	10,400	9.9	6.7
Administration	5,800	5,800	5,700	0.0	1.8

Magic Valley Table: Labor Force & Employment

Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties	Nov. 2000	Oct. 2000	Nov. 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	49,340	47,830	48,650	3.2	1.4
Unemployment	2,070	1,970	2,220	5.1	-6.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.1	4.6		
Total Employment	47,270	45,860	46,430	3.1	1.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	49,430	48,920	48,730	1.0	1.4
Unemployment	1,650	1,600	1,770	3.1	-6.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.3	3.6		
Total Employment	47,780	47,320	46,960	1.0	1.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	37,730	37,750	37,480	-0.1	0.7
Goods-Producing Industries	7,420	7,680	7,320	-3.4	1.4
Mining & Construction	2,170	2,230	2,140	-2.7	1.4
Manufacturing	5,250	5,450	5,180	-3.7	1.4
Durable Goods	790	790	780	0.0	1.3
Nondurable Goods	4,460	4,660	4,400	-4.3	1.4
Food Processing	3,480	3,650	3,410	-4.7	2.1
All Other Nondurable Goods	980	1,010	990	-3.0	-1.0
Service-Producing Industries	30,310	30,070	30,160	0.8	0.5
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	3,130	3,070	3,120	2.0	0.3
Wholesale Trade	2,340	2,370	2,500	-1.3	-6.4
Retail Trade	7,840	7,690	8,140	2.0	-3.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,410	1,390	1,460	1.4	-3.4
Services	9,080	9,050	8,910	0.3	1.9
Government Administration	3,720	3,710	3,580	0.3	3.9
Government Education	2,790	2,790	2,450	0.0	13.9
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)	Nov. 2000	Oct. 2000	Nov. 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	41,180	40,840	40,980	0.8	0.5
Unemployment	1,800	1,800	2,020	0.0	-10.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.4	4.9		
Total Employment	39,380	39,040	38,960	0.9	1.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	41,060	40,530	40,850	1.3	0.5
Unemployment	1,610	1,530	1,800	5.2	-10.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.8	4.4		
Total Employment	39,450	39,000	39,050	1.2	1.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	34,300	33,800	33,270	1.5	3.1
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,730	4,750	4,810	-0.4	-1.7
Mining & Construction	1,710	1,780	1,950	-3.9	-12.3
Manufacturing	3,020	2,970	2,860	1.7	5.6
<i>Service-Producing Industries</i>	29,570	29,050	28,460	1.8	3.9
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,900	1,900	1,860	0.0	2.2
Wholesale Trade	1,440	1,410	1,460	2.1	-1.4
Retail Trade	7,320	7,180	7,090	1.9	3.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,470	1,490	1,620	-1.3	-9.3
Services	8,020	8,140	7,530	-1.5	6.5
Government Administration	3,530	3,520	3,210	0.3	10.0
Government Education	5,890	5,410	5,690	8.9	3.5
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

Northeast Idaho Table: Labor Force & Employment					
				% Change From	
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties	Nov. 2000	Oct. 2000	Nov. 1999	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	82,500	82,440	81,610	0.1	1.1
Unemployment	2,770	2,500	3,420	10.8	-19.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.0	4.2		
Total Employment	79,730	79,940	78,190	-0.3	2.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	84,020	83,300	83,010	0.9	1.2
Unemployment	2,260	2,650	2,780	-14.7	-18.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	3.2	3.3		
Total Employment	81,760	80,650	80,230	1.4	1.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	63,180	63,510	61,560	-0.5	2.6
Goods-Producing Industries	9,350	9,480	9,580	-1.4	-2.4
Mining & Construction	4,170	4,310	4,380	-3.2	-4.8
Manufacturing	5,180	5,170	5,200	0.2	-0.4
Food Processing	2,730	2,680	2,890	1.9	-5.5
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	540	570	530	-5.3	1.9
All Other Manufacturing	1,910	1,920	1,780	-0.5	7.3
Service-Producing Industries	53,830	54,030	51,980	-0.4	3.6
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,430	2,390	2,310	1.7	5.2
Wholesale Trade	6,080	5,900	5,980	3.1	1.7
Retail Trade	11,620	11,680	11,250	-0.5	3.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	2,010	1,870	1,890	7.5	6.3
Services	21,300	21,510	20,500	-1.0	3.9
Government Administration	5,180	5,880	4,800	-11.9	7.9
Government Education	5,210	4,800	5,250	8.5	-0.8
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					



The Idaho Department of Labor would like to wish all of our *Idaho Employment* readers a very happy holiday season. We hope the year 2000 has been joyful and prosperous for you and your family!

In addition, we would like to thank all of those who work hard to bring this newsletter to the citizens of Idaho each month.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find

employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on non-farm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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